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REPORT ON THE ARCHIVES OF RHODE ISLAND.

BY

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,
LIBRARIAN OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Reprinted from the Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the year 1903, Vol. I, pages 595-611.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1904.

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REPORT ON THE ARCHIVES OF RHODE ISLAND.

By Clarence S. Brigham,
Librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society.[a]

INTRODUCTION.

The accompanying report attempts to list and describe all of the manuscript archives in the possession of the State of Rhode Island, of the five county courts, and of each city and town in the State. The labor of compiling this report has been a much greater task than was at first supposed. The inaccessibility of many of the records, the examination of hundreds of volumes whose lettering on the back gave no adequate description of the contents within, the great variety of records kept by the towns, especially those incorporated in the seventeenth century, and the time consumed in visiting personally the town offices, some of which were 8 or 10 miles from the nearest railroad, have been cogent reasons for confining this report to the archives alone. It had at first been intended to enumerate all of the State, city, and town printed material, but on account of the considerations mentioned above it has been deemed best to leave such an enumeration for some future time, making only such occasional reference to printed reports as seemed necessary.

The manuscript archives of the State of Rhode Island properly consist of the documents and papers in the custody of the secretary of state, the official files of the various departments of the State, and the occasional documents of a public nature deposited with the State by private individuals. The richness and value of this collection has been much more appreciated now that the documents finally have been brought together under one roof in the new statehouse at Providence.

[a] Assisted in parts of the report by Frank G. Bates, Ph. D., Professor of History, Alfred University.

The joint select committee upon the public archives, appointed in 1860 to examine the public documents in the old statehouse, reported that "the public archives of this State are rich in almost every variety of rare and valuable documents, whether for illustrating the political, municipal, legislative, or judicial history of the State, and that the loss of them, by whatever means, either by fire or by process of decay for want of proper care, would be an irreparable loss." Conditions have greatly changed since 1860, but it will not be long before some of the departments will be looking for more room to store their records, and as is generally the case the earlier records will be placed in some other depository to make way for those in later and current use.

The suggestion of the State record commissioner, Mr. R. Hammett Tilley, is well worthy of attention in this regard. In such an office he says (Report, 1898, p. 8, 1899, p. 6) "the records and papers in the custody of the secretary of state, and all court papers and files, previous to a fixed date, could be properly arranged, indexed, and cared for. Many papers now in private hands would be placed in public custody if the owners were certain they would be properly preserved and made available. Many public documents now scattered in other departments would be brought together. Questions that now are asked of different officials could be answered by one, and information that can not now be obtained without much trouble and expense could, in most cases, be promptly furnished."

No complete enumeration of the printed documents of the State has ever been made, nor is it probable that a complete list could be compiled at this day. Bowker's State Publications, 1899, is very incomplete and contains inaccuracies. Mr. J. H. Bongartz has published a Check-List of Rhode Island Laws to 1893, and the authors of this report have prepared a tentative check list of Rhode Island documents printed since 1850. This latter, published in the report of the State librarian for 1903, is confessedly incomplete.

The court records of the State consist of the various documents in possession of the five county courts of the State—the Bristol County court-house at Bristol, the Kent County court-house at East Greenwich, the Newport County court-

house at Newport, the Providence County court-house at Providence, and the Washington County court-house at Kingston. These records are nearly all in good condition and well cared for, although some of the offices require more ample quarters for their rapidly accumulating records. The earlier records of these offices contain many plats, depositions, deeds, etc., filed with petitions, which are of great value.

The records of the twelve district courts of the State, which are not enumerated in this report, might properly be mentioned in this place. These courts were established in 1886. According to statute law they "have the custody of all the records, books, and papers of the several justice courts heretofore established within their respective judicial districts."

The town records consist of the various archives in the possession of the thirty-three towns and five cities of the State. The great variety of these records is explainable from the fact that at the present day a town clerk is supposed to keep about two dozen different kinds of record books, and the law in regard to the method of keeping the records has been constantly changing for the last two hundred and fifty years. The condition of the town records throughout the State is on the whole very good. Comparatively few of the volumes have been lost or destroyed, although unfortunately the same statement can not be made as to the miscellaneous papers and documents, such as original petitions, letters, tax lists, etc. There is, however, a far keener appreciation to-day of the value of the early records than there was a decade or two ago, a condition of affairs undoubtedly brought about by the excellent work of the State record commissioner. In many of the towns the earliest volumes have been preserved and rebound by the Emery process, North Kingston, Newport, Bristol, and Westerly having done especially well in this direction.

Only one or two of the towns are to-day without some sort of fireproof receptacles for the records, and there seems to be a growing desire on the part of town councils to provide more safe and ample accommodations for the records of their respective towns. The Massachusetts statute regarding the preservation of records is worth quoting in this place, as there is no

reason why a similar law should not be in force in Rhode Island:

> Every officer or board in charge of a State department, board of county commissioners, city government, and board of selectmen shall, at the expense of the commonwealth, county, city, or town, provide and maintain fireproof rooms, safes, and vaults, for the keeping as aforesaid of the public records of their department, county, city, or town, other than the public records in the custody of the teachers in the public schools, and shall hereafter furnish for such rooms only fittings of noncombustible material.

A bibliography of town documents, as well as of State documents, would be of considerable value, although a task of more difficulty on account of the greater inaccessibility of the material. Very few of the towns have complete sets of their own documents, such as tax books and school reports, and the only collection that approaches completion is in the library of the Rhode Island Historical Society. The State library has a fairly good set of the tax books and there are partial sets in the Rider collection in Brown University, in the Westerly public library, and in private hands. In the office of the State board of education there is a set of the school reports of the various towns from 1874 to date. In the present report the attempt is made to list the printed tax books and school reports of the towns and all of the collections mentioned above have been consulted to that end.

There has been no attempt in the report on town records to list any records outside of the town clerk's office. There are undoubtedly many records of school boards, justices of the peace, etc., which are scattered around in private hands, which it would be manifestly impossible to enumerate. It should be borne in mind that the material for this report was mostly gathered in the latter part of the year 1903 and that the constant reference to records as coming "to date" means to the close of the year 1903.

Acknowledgment is hereby made to all of the various State and town officials who have so kindly extended to us the courtesies of their offices. To Mr. William Jones, Ph. D., instructor in history in Brown University, who has been of great assistance to me, particularly in the compilation of material on the court records, acknowledgment is especially due. To Frank Greene Bates, Ph. D., professor of history at Alfred

University, and formerly State librarian of Rhode Island, is due the compilation of the larger part of the material on the State archives. The State record commissioner, Mr. R. Hammett Tilley, has aided me with many kind suggestions.

STATE ARCHIVES.

In this report the State archives are grouped, first, under the respective offices where they are deposited, and, secondly, by subject. Most of the archives at the statehouse, for various reasons, are in the custody of the secretary of state. The early corporate character of the colony led naturally to the making of the secretary of the corporation, or the "general recorder," the custodian of the records, books, and papers of the colony. As the various departments of the government were created they were supposed to keep their own records in their respective offices, but all records not distinctly belonging to any one office were still deposited with the secretary. The secretary's office, the only office that has continuously been located at the statehouse, has accordingly from time to time been made the repository of papers relating to other departments, and contains the largest and most valuable portion of the archives of the State. The removal of the various branches of the government to the new statehouse is so recent that the work of arranging the archives in their final resting place is not yet complete. In this report the archives are given a general classification by subject, although their arrangement upon the shelves does not follow the same plan.

The papers are grouped under the following heads:

- Secretary of state's office:
  - Statutes.
  - General assembly—
    - Proceedings.
    - Senate journals.
    - House journals.
    - Reports of committees.
    - Petitions.
    - Bills.
    - Charters, etc.
    - Miscellaneous.
  - Treasurer and financial.
  - Vital records.

Secretary of state's office—Continued.
- Law and equity cases.
- Governor and council.
- Boundaries.
- Census.
- Constitutions.
- Admiralty and maritime.
- Military.
- Notary public.
- Letters.
- Miscellaneous.

General treasurer's office.
Auditor's office.
Board of education.
Adjutant general.
Board of charities and corrections.
Railroad commissioner.
Board of agriculture.
Board of health.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE.

STATUTES.

Of the manuscripts relating to the various revisions of the laws are the following:

Body of laws of the colony of Rhode Island 1663–1705. (The first compilation of the laws. Printed for the first time in 1896, with a historical introduction by Sidney S. Rider.)

Records of the committee appointed by the general assembly, to which were referred the Revised Code of the Public Laws, 1857.

Act comprising the general statutes of Rhode Island as passed 1872.

Original copy of the public statutes of Rhode Island, 1882, as passed by the general assembly.

Original copy of the general laws of 1896 as passed by the general assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

PROCEEDINGS:

Records of the general assembly to 1851, 29 volumes. (Volumes 1–13 of this series form the basis of Bartlett's Rhode Island Colonial Records.) The first volume is lettered: "Rhode Island Colony Records, 1646–1669."

This volume contains memorandums of transfers of lands, of land boundaries, town grants to individuals, proceedings of the court of trials, and after 1656 only the records of the general assembly and of the court of trials. Under a resolution of the general assembly in January, 1824, a transcript of the above book was made and is arranged with the other volumes of the series in the archives. It is lettered: "Ancient Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations from the First Settlement on the Island of Aquidneck in the year 1638 to 1670. Copied from the originals by Charles Gyles, of Newport."

PROCEEDINGS—Continued.

The other volumes, unnumbered but bearing dates, follow in this order:

2. 1671–1686.
3. 1686–1715.
4. 1715–1729.
5. 1729–1746.
6. 1746–1757.
7. 1758–1762.
8. 1762–1772.
9. 1772–1777.
10. 1777–1779.
11. 1779–1781.
12. 1781–1785.
13. 1785–1791.
14. 1791–1796.
15. 1796–1801.
16. 1801–1805.
17. 1806–1809.
18. 1809–1814.
19. 1814–1817.
20. 1817–1820.
21. 1820–1824.
22. 1824–1828.
23. 1828–1832.
24. 1832–1835.
25. 1835–1838.
26. 1838–1841.
27. 1841–1844.
28. 1844–1848.
29. 1848–1851.

(Although volume 3 is lettered 1686–1715, the records from October, 1690, to July, 1695, with the exception of August, 1692, and also from March, 1697, to May, 1698, are missing. There are, of course, no records for 1687 and 1688, during which years the colony was under the Andros rule. See Schedules, January, 1827, p. 30; January, 1828, p. 3.)

Proceedings of the general assembly of Rhode Island.

Vol. 1. 1649–1670.
Vol. 2. 1671–1699.
Vol. 3. 1700–1710.
Vol. 4. 1711–1721.

(This is an incomplete file of the manuscript schedules of the general assembly.)

Acts and resolves:

The acts and resolves of the general assembly were until a late day copied on loose sheets of paper and at some subsequent date collected in scrap-book form. This set of 121 volumes contains the acts and resolves of the general assembly from 1728 to date. They are variously lettered "Acts and Resolutions," "Acts and Resolves," and "Public Acts and Resolutions."

There is also an odd volume of Acts and Resolves containing certain acts of the year 1838.

Senate and house journals:

Journals of the senate, 1733–1894. 34 vols.
Journals of the house of representatives, 1722–1891. 57 vols.

The more recent journals of the senate and house are not yet filed with the archives, but are in the custody of the clerks of the two houses.

Reports of committees:

Reports of committees to the general assembly, 1728–1860. 15 vols.

1. 1728–1750.
2. 1751–1765.
3. 1766–1778.
4. 1778–1788.
5. 1788–1800.
6. 1801–1809.
7. 1810–1817.
8. 1818–1830.
9. 1831–1837.
10. 1837–1842.
11. 1843–1846.
12. 1847–1852.
13. 1853–1857.
14. 1858–1860.
15. Index.

About 250 filing boxes of original reports to the general assembly and miscellaneous papers, 1840 to date. These papers are at present somewhat inaccessible, until the completion of the furnishing of the room where they are stored.

Testimony before a committee of the senate of the State of Rhode Island, appointed to investigate frauds in elections, February, 1865.

Petitions:

Petitions to the Rhode Island general assembly, 1725–1860, 73 vols.

Index to petitions to the general assembly, 1801–1848, 3 vols.

Bills:

Engrossed bills, 1857–1897, 19 vols.

Engrossed judiciary act, 1893.

Record of bills introduced, 1884–1889, 1 vol.

Calendar of bills, house of representatives, May, 1888, to March, 1894.

Charters, etc.:

Charters of incorporation granted by the general assembly, 1790–1901, 70 vols.

Certificates of organization of corporations returned to the secretary of state.

Vol. 1. 1865–1898.
Vol. 2. 1898 to date.

Record of certificates of incorporation of companies under chapter 1200 of the public laws, 1893–1895.

Certificates of incorporation of business corporations under the general law.

Vol. 1. 1896–1902.
Vol. 2. 1902 to date.

Certificates of incorporation of literary, etc., corporations incorporated under the general laws.

Vol. 1. 1896–1902.
Vol. 2. 1902 to date.

Certificates of incorporation of Roman Catholic churches under the general law.

Miscellaneous:

Grand committee proceedings, May 26, 1893.

Record of attendance, senators, 1901 to date.

TREASURER AND FINANCIAL (SEE ALSO GENERAL TREASURER'S OFFICE).

The treasurer's accounts of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1672. (Contains the general treasurer's accounts, 1672–1711.)

Volume with lettering illegible. (Contains general treasurer's accounts, 1712–1731, followed by auditor's reports from 1732 to 1812.)

The general treasurer's waste book. (Containing general treasurer's accounts, 1733-1739).

Treasury day book. (Containing general treasurer's accounts, 1745–1756.)

Alaphabetical book, No. 6, 1761. (Containing general treasurer's accounts, 1761–1780.)

Record of certificates or notes against Rhode Island issued for debts incurred in the Revolution. (Gives holder's name and abstract of nature of claim, whether for service or otherwise.)

Records of the rate estimate committee appointed by the general assembly, 1855.

Book of descriptions of notes on which the State has paid a part under act of June, 1791.

State valuation, 1855. (Contains valuation lists of the city of Providence as made out by the State commission.)

Report of the registered State debt with certificates, 1849. (Contains also sketch of the history of the State debt as prepared by the committee.)

Register of certificates issued in exchange for the debt of this State, in conformity with an act passed by the general assembly, June, 1797.

Book containing list of banks, 1804, list of chartered companies (military), 1741–1843.

Subscribers to the stock of certain banks, 9 vols, 1830–1854.

Bundle, accounts of collectors of imposts, 1785.

Record of mortgages, deeds, or bonds given to the State as security for emissions of paper.

Accounts of the colony of Rhode Island with Richard Partridge, colonial agent in England, 1715–1746.

Bundle of papers relating to surplus revenue deposited with banks, 1836–1843.

Fines and recoveries, 1728–1750, 1 vol.

Treasurer's paper money account book, 1728–1762, 1 vol.

Estimates of damages received in the riots of 1765.

Register of claims arising from holders of notes or certificates, 1795–1814.

VITAL RECORDS.

Returns of births, marriages, and deaths, 1852 to date, 45 vols. (These are the returns from the town and city clerks, giving the name of and statistics regarding persons born, married, or deceased in every town in the State from 1852 to date.)

Index of births, 1852 to date, 8 vols.

Index of marriages, 1852 to date, 4 vols.

Index of deaths, 1852 to date, 5 vols.

(For a summary of laws regarding registration of vital statistics, see under Board of health office.)

LAW AND EQUITY CASES.

Rhode Island law cases, 12 vols. (Contains principally appeals from the inferior courts or the supreme court of judicature to the general assembly, 1725–1740, 1780–1799.)

Records of judgments of court of equity created by special act September 8, 1741. 1741–1743. (Contains judgments rendered.)

Cases in equity, 1741–1743, 6 vols. (Contains papers in cases appealed to the general assembly from the supreme court of judicature.)

GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL.

Governor and council, 1667–1753. "The Booke of Records Containing the Acts and Orders made by the Governor and Council both General and Perticular since the first of May, 1667."

Records of fines and recoveries under act of the general assembly for "docking" and cutting off estates tail, 1727–1750.

General council, probate records, 1798–1806. (Containing proceedings of the general council sitting as supreme ordinary and judge of probate. The council sitting in this capacity also called "Supreme court of probate.")

General council. 1756–1772. (Contains acts of general council, composed of governor, deputy governor, and assistants, on probate appeals from town councils. The council also acted as a council of war, 1755–1762.)

Bundle of probate papers, being papers in cases appealed to the Governor and council.

BOUNDARIES.

Rhode Island and Massachusetts boundary commission, 1741. Copy of a volume in the office of the secretary of state of New York, containing the records of the court of commisssoners for determining the boundary between Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Presented to the State of Rhode Island in compliance with a resolution of the legislature of New York, March, 1849.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island boundary documents, 2 vols.
Vol. 1. 1666–1769.
Vol. 2. 1770–1842.

Rhode Island and Massachusetts boundary line. (Contains proceedings of the commissioners for settling the eastern boundary between Rhode Island and Massachusetts Bay. Copied from the original record preserved in the State paper office, London, 1845.)

Field notes on the survey of the State of Rhode Island, made by James Stevens, 1819.

Three bundles of plats of State boundaries.

One bundle of plats of town boundaries and highway layouts.

Portfolio of plats of highway layouts, turnpikes, dividing lines, etc., 1733–1835 (45 plats).

Divisions of towns, 1728–1842. (Contains papers relating to divisions of towns either accomplished or proposed.)

Bundle of copies of plats of early divisions of land in Warwick.

Plat of the Seekonk River.

CENSUS.

Census of the colony of Rhode Island, 1774. (Printed in 1858, edited by J. R. Bartlett.)

Census of Rhode Island, 1776. (Portfolio containing the original enumerators' schedules of the census ordered 1776. Completed April, 1777.)

Census of 1870, 12 vols. (Original enumerators' schedules.)

Census of 1875, 20 vols. (Original enumerators' schedules.)

Census of 1885, 16 vols. (Original enumerators' schedules.)

Census of 1895. (The original returns, tied up in bundles, are in the office of the commissioner of industrial statistics. They have not as yet been transcribed into volumes.)

The censuses for 1782, 1850, 1860, and 1865 are deposited with the Rhode Island Historical Society,

CONSTITUTIONS.

Papers relating to the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. (Contains votes in the towns with reference to the adoption of the Constitution. Instructions to town delegates. Papers relating to adoption by other States. Minutes of the constitutional convention of Rhode Island. Miscellaneous papers.)

Constitution of the United States with ratification by the State of Rhode Island with suggested amendments.

Journal of the constitutional convention held at Newport, 1824.

Journal of the constitutional convention, November, 1841.

Constitutions, 1841–42. (Contains papers and proceedings upon the constitutions of 1841 and 1842.)

ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME.

NOTE.—The following is a summary of the important laws regarding courts of admiralty in the colony:

The general assembly, January 7, 1695, established the general council of the colony as a court of admiralty (Arnold, History of Rhode Island, vol. 2, p. 49) for the condemning of prizes and the administering of seafaring matters. This act was annulled by the English Government in 1704, and all admiralty matters placed in charge of Governor Dudley, as vice-admiral of New England (R. I. Col. Rec., vol. 3, p. 509). The admiralty was thus placed under royal control. In 1743 a table of fees for the court of vice-admiralty was adopted by the general assembly (R. I. Col. Rec., 5, 74). By an assembly act of December 18, 1766, the register of the court of vice-admiralty was required to keep a register of all prisoners of war brought into the colony, which amended the act of February, 1748, requiring the secretary of the colony to keep such a register (Digest of 1767, p. 212; R. I. Col. Rec., 5, 241). At the beginning of the Revolution the assembly recognized privateering, in conformity with an act of Congress, and in March, 1776, established a prize court (Schedules, March, 1776, p. 312). In July, 1780, a new act establishing a court of admiralty was passed, which repealed the act of 1776

and all subsequent acts except the law of June, 1780, stating fees (Schedules, July, 1780, 2d sess., p. 9).

In October, 1784, the assembly ordered that all early admiralty records, papers, etc., formerly belonging to the court of vice-admiralty of the colony should be delivered by the executors of the late register of the court to the secretary of state (Schedules, October, 1784, p. 26; February, 1785, p. 47).

Admiralty papers, 1726–1750, 2 vols.
Vol. 1. 1726–1745.
Vol. 2. 1746–1750.

Admiralty papers, 1740–1783. (Comprising 9 bundles of miscellaneous admiralty papers.)

Admiralty papers, 1776–1780. (Comprising three bundles of papers in prize cases adjudicated in admiralty courts, with miscellaneous shipping papers, commissions of privateers, sailing orders, registries, etc.)

Register of Rhode Island vessels, 1776–1783, 3 vols. (Contains registry of vessels by intendant of trade.)
Vol. 1. 1776–1778.
Vol. 2. 1778–1782.
Vol. 3. 1782–1783.

Bonds, masters of vessels, 1780–1785, 3 vols. (Contains bonds given by masters of vessels to intendant of trade.)

Petitions and instructions, letters of marque, 1776–1780. (Contains petitions to the State government for letters of marque and instructions to privateers.)

Outward entries and manifests, 1782–1787. (Contains entries of cargoes on outward-bound vessels.)

Book of manifests, Providence impost office, 1785–1789, 1 vol.

MILITARY PAPERS.

French war. (Containing communications from Governor Shirley, proceedings of councils of war, military returns, replies of Massachusetts to Governor Shirley.)

Papers relating to the French war, 1740–1763.

Minutes of the council of war, 1776–1781.
Vol. 1. 1776–1777.
Vol. 2. 1777–1778.
Vol. 3. 1778–1779.
Vol. 4. 1779–1781.

Military returns, 1776–1782. (Contains rolls of companies, pay abstracts, accounts.)
Vol. 1. 1776–1777.
Vol. 2. 1778–1782.
Vol. 3. Not chronologically arranged.
Vol. 4. Not chronologically arranged.
Vol. 5. Not chronologically arranged.

Regimental book of the Rhode Island Regiment, 1781. (Contains register of leaves of absence to officers, enlistments, casualties, deserters, levies discharged, roll of honor, orders, etc.)

Accounts of deputy quartermaster-general under Major-General Sullivan, 1778.

Invalid pensioners. (Containing returns of invalid pensioners, officers who died in service, being duplicates of returns to the Secretary of War April 8, 1790.)

Papers of John Waterman Memorial Commission, 1895.

Proceedings of the council of war, 1812–1815.

Book of public certificates paid to soldiers of Rhode Island Line. Balance due on a final settlement with the United States.

Military officers appointed and commissioned by Governor Sprague, 1861–62.

Register of persons desiring permits to leave the State, 1862.

Bundle marked military papers, 1743–1764. (Contains accounts, muster rolls, etc., 1743–1764. Forms of commissions.)

Bundle. Minutes, accounts, etc., of the council of war, 1777–1782.

NOTARY PUBLIC.

A list of the acts passed in reference to notaries public may be of service in this place:

1705, October. An act establishing a public notary in the colony for the performance of all matters relating to the drawing of protests, etc., and providing that the general recorder of the colony fill the position. (R. I. Col. Rec. iii, 451; Digest of 1745, p. 37.)

1751, August. An act for erecting and establishing the office of a notary public in the town of Providence. Preamble recites great increase in trade of Providence and inconvenience from fact that only officer of the kind resides at Newport. (Digest of 1752, p. 102.)

1792. An act for the appointment of public notaries. Provides for annual appointment of public notary in each county. (Digest of 1798, p. 398.)

1822. General assembly to appoint as many notaries for several counties as may seem expedient. Their duties defined. (Digest of 1822, p. 300.)

1893, May 24. Notaries public to be appointed by the governor. (Acts and resolves, January, 1893, ch. 1189.)

The series of records in the archives begin with volume 4 and contain powers of attorney, protests, articles of apprenticeship, manifests, affidavits, documents relating to privateers, and miscellaneous acknowledgments:

Vol. 4. 1721–1741.
Vol. 5. 1741–1753.
Vol. 6. 1753–1757.
Vol. 7. 1758–1768.
Vol. 8. 1769–1796.

Notarial Record Books, 1860–1866.
Vol. 1. 1860–1863.
Vol. 2. 1863–1866.

LETTERS.

In 1753 there was passed an "Act for registering public letters." (See Digest of 1767, p. 219, where the marginal references are to the years 1753 and 1757). By this act all letters sent by the colony to its English agent, or to other public persons or officers were to be kept in a book for the purpose; and all public letters received by the colony were to be kept in another book. Although this act was not obeyed exactly, henceforth public letters were more carefully preserved, for the act was repeated in subsequent digests. Practically no public letters previous to 1731 have been preserved, although there is frequent reference to their having been received.

Letters, 1731–1800, 4 vols. (Containing letters from the governor.)
- Vol. 1. 1731–1767.
- Vol. 2. 1768–1777.
- Vol. 3. 1778–1779.
- Vol. 4. 1780–1800.

Letters, 1731–1849, 24 vols.
- Vol. 1. 1731–1741.
- Vol. 2. 1742–1745.
- Vol. 3. 1746–1750.
- Vol. 4. 1750–1756.
- Vol. 5. 1756–1758.
- Vol. 6. 1758–1763.
- Vol. 7. 1763–1775.
- Vol. 8. 1776.
- Vol. 9. 1776–1777.
- Vol. 10. 1777.
- Vol. 11. 1777–1778.
- Vol. 12. 1778.
- Vol. 13. 1778–1779.
- Vol. 14. 1779–1780.
- Vol. 15. 1780.
- Vol. 16. 1780–1781.
- Vol. 17. 1781–1782.
- Vol. 18. 1782–1783.
- Vol. 19. 1783–1785.
- Vol. 20. 1785–1788.
- Vol. 21. 1789–1800.
- Vol. 22. 1801–1814.
- Vol. 23. 1815–1839.
- Vol. 24. 1840–1849.

Letter book, 1756–1765. (Containing letters to the governor.)

Portfolio. (Containing letters of 1773 and 1774 to and from the governor, including correspondence at the removal of Governor Joseph Wanton.)

Letters to the governor, 1790–1810. (Contains also report of commissioners on Blackstone Canal and records of appointments, 1841–1846.)

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS.

Records of the Island of Rhode Island. (Contains original records of Portsmouth until the separation, and the records of Newport from that time to March 15, 1643–44.)

Land evidences, 1648–1721. (Containing land evidences recorded with the general recorder):

Vol. 1. 1648–1696.
Vol. 2. 1671–1708.
Vol. 3. 1707–1721.
Vol. 4. 1721–1741.

Fones Record, 1660. (Contains "Records of deeds and agreements and orders, etc., belonging to the proprietors of the Narragansett," 1659–1677. Printed in 1894, edited by J. N. Arnold.)

Portfolio gleanings from early town history of Providence. (Copies of papers in Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut records relating to Rhode Island. 17th century.)

Portfolio containing miscellaneous letters and papers, 1762–1774. Reports to general assembly, 1724.

Miscellaneous papers, 1728–1795. 3 volumes and 2 portfolios.

Orders of the King in council, 1734–1783. (Contains orders concerning boundaries; appeals in cases arising from the acts of trade, probate privateers, defense, etc.)

Narragansett Indians, 1735–1842. (Contains petitions, acts, letters, etc., relating to the Narragansetts.)

Proceedings of the Congress at Albany, 1754. (Contains credentials of delegates, minutes of proceedings, plan of union.)

Proclamations, 1756–1902, 2 vols.

Bundle of account books, etc. (Containing accounts of estate of R. Aldrich, 1821; accounts of United States with Thomas Greene; Census of Providence, 1776; money advanced to officers, 1776–1782; account of losses in Montreal fire, 1763.)

Portfolio. Papers on Indians; French war; estimate of State valuation, 1767.

Portfolio containing papers relating to the loyalists, Augustus Johnson, Martin Howard, and Dr. Thomas Moffat.

Gaspee papers, 1772–73. (Contains documents and correspondence relating to the destruction of the Gaspee and the proceedings in consequence thereof.)

Proceedings of the Congress at Philadelphia, 1774. (Containing official record of the proceedings.)

Bundle. Copies of letters and documents concerning Rhode Island, 1774–1782.

Four portfolios of miscellaneous drafts of acts, protests, letters, deeds, petitions.

Register of commissions by the governor and general assembly, 1831–1848. (Contains lists of judges, clerks of courts, notaries, justices of the peace, military officers, and miscellaneous and occasional appointments.

Masonry and anti-Masonry, 1833–4. (Contains memorials, petitions, correspondence, and testimony relating to the anti-Masonic movement.)

Appointments made and commissioned by the governor, 1851–1858.

Record books of mortgages, bonds, trustees' proceedings, and other records relating to certain railroads in the State, 1852–1893, 5 vols.

List of commissioners of Rhode Island in other States, 1865–date.

Record book of the commissioners appointed and organized under an act passed March 31, 1880, to abolish the tribal authority and tribal relations of the Narragansett Tribe of Indians. 1880–1882.

In one of the vaults of the Secretary of State is a series of wooden boxes of papers. While these boxes are labeled, the lettering suggests so little of their contents that it has been deemed best to give a general idea of the contents of each. The collection comprises 26 boxes and 3 trunks.

One series of 11 boxes, variously labeled "Accounts," "Accounts and miscellaneous," etc., covers the period from 1730 to 1844. They are:

1730–1774. Accounts of Partridge and Sherwood, 1731–1760; accounts of Secretary, 1751–1761; accounts of Fort George, 1740–1744; petitions to the general assembly, 1772–1774.

1775–1788. Accounts, 1775–1786; petitions, 1774–1779; hospital accounts, 1778–79; returns of deputies, 1780.

1785–1799. Accounts, 1785–1799; petitions, 1782–1799; returns of representatives, 1797–1799; bills, 1795; executions returned, 1798–1799.

1800–1807. Accounts, 1800–1807; bank statements, 1800–1807.

1808–1813. Accounts of general assembly, 1808–1813; petitions, 1808–1313; bank returns, 1809–1813; returns of representatives, 1808–1814.

1814–1817. Accounts, 1814–1817; petitions, 1814–1817; bank returns, 1814–1817; returns of representatives, 1815–1817; court-martial accounts, 1817; case of N. Hail *v.* Creditors, 1815.

1818–1821. Accounts, 1818–1821; bank statements, 1818–1821; petitions, 1818–1821; returns of representatives, 1818–1821; report on education, 1821; bills and report of committees, 1821; petitions for banks, 1818.

1822–1827. Accounts, 1822–1827; petitions for new trial, 1825–1827; returns of deputies, 1822–1826; bank returns, 1822–1827; petitions, 1822–1827; general treasurer's report, 1825; justice's returns, 1825; report of committee on state of banks, 1823; act for admission of freemen, 1822.

1828–1834. Accounts, 1828–1834; petitions, 1828–1834; bank returns, 1828–1834; returns of representatives.

1835–1838. Accounts, 1836–1838; petitions to general assembly, 1835–1838; returns of deaf and dumb; returns of representatives, 1835–1838; Burrillville bank papers; report on Merchant's Bank, 1837; bank returns, 1835–1837; petitions on State prison, 1832–1835.

1839–1844. Accounts, 1839–1844; petitions, 1839–1844; bank abstracts, 1839–1844; school returns, 1840–1842; returns of representatives, 1839–1842; certificates of election of constitutional convention, 1841; petition to restore town government in Providence, 1839; petition for liberation of T. W. Dorr, containing large number of autograph signatures.

Three boxes on the "Revolutionary war" contain among other papers—

Receipt books for wood, 1777–1778; papers of council of war, 1776–1780; commissions and resignations, 1777; accounts of State with the United States, 1776; pay abstracts, 1777–1780; returns of clothing, 1778; accounts in Connecticut for keeping Rhode Island soldiers, 1777–1778; inquiry into the staff department; accounts against the State, 1775–1783; returns for supplies, 1777–1781; accounts for losses of estates on Rhode Island; papers relating to prisoners of war, 1776; papers relating to Colonel Olney's regiment, 1781–1783.

Then follow boxes on miscellaneous subjects, as below:

Military returns, 1750–1846. Two boxes. (Contain returns of State militia and independent companies, 1750–1846; adjutant-general's reports, 1810, 1825, 1827.)

Mexican boundary commission, J. R. Bartlett. (Contains vouchers for bills paid on account of the commission.)

Admiralty and maritime papers. Two boxes. (Contain miscellaneous papers on maritime affairs of the eighteenth century.)

Burrillville Bank. Two boxes. (Contain papers and books of the Burrillville Bank.)

General treasurer's reports. (Contains treasurer's reports and accounts, 1736–1738, 1758, 1779–1845; bank returns and abstracts, 1824–1828, 1840; report of sheriff, 1834; returns of justices of the peace, 1824, 1839.)

"Miscellaneous." (Contains returns of deputies, 1755–1769; lists of freemen, 1757–1766; certificates of legality to proxies, 1758–1768; citations and summonses, 1741–1742, 1785; accounts of Henry Ward, secretary, 1762–1772; accounts allowed, 1761; petitions, 1822, 1827.)

Appeals and petitions for new trials, bonds, and executions. (Contains petitions, 1765, 1766, 1780, 1795, 1796, 1810; accounts relating to pirates, 1738–1739; toleration appeals to council, 1728; executions, 1733–1840; appeals to governor and council, 1740–1771; recognizances, 1742; equity papers, 1741–1743; appeal bonds, 1723–1797.)

Petitions voted out, withdrawn, and non-concurred in by the general assembly, 1818–1838.

Miscellaneous petitions to the general assembly, 1729–1772.

"Eighteenth century papers in portfolios." (Contains papers on paper money, 1728–1786; rate papers, 1745–1767; general treasurer's accounts, 1741–1791; highway papers, 1724–1792; lotteries, 1743–1787; papers on Westerly, 1749–1764; counterfeiting, 1739–1756; poor debtor papers, 1751–1764; petitions and executions, 1730–1784; probate papers, 1724–1779; ferries, 1727–1768; depositions, 1756–1799; accounts for Fort George, 1732–1766.)

1 box without label. (List of estates and freemen, New Shoreham, 1762; paper money burned, 1729; town property in the State, 1783; sheriff bonds, 1762–1764; rate lists, 1747–1800; acts concerning town rates, 1749–1754; deputies and freemen, 1727–1778; warrants and summons to general assembly, 1750–1781; general assembly fines, 1749–1752; general assembly docket, 1747–1812; appeal bonds, 1761–1775.)

(Trunk) Papers in case of Wm. Allen et al. *v.* Blackstone Canal Co., 1838.

(Trunk) Contains abstract of State debt, 2 vols.; register of certificates of State debt issued, 1797; certificates issued to creditors of State, 1795; 3 volumes of record of certificates for two years' interest on the debt issued 1797; check book on issue of certificates, 1795.

(Trunk) Contains register of certificates of State debt issued 1797; lottery reference book; log of *Brig Leopard*, 1830; record of State tax apportioned on towns, 1779–1788; correspondence of A. Dexter and W. Colwell, 1808; papers relating to the Farmers' Exchange Bank, of Gloucester; miscellaneous papers.

GENERAL TREASURER'S OFFICE.

The general treasurer has been a recognized officer from the very beginning of the colony in 1647. During all of the early period, however, and in fact well into the nineteenth century the only vaults available for his records were those of the secretary of state. When separate quarters for the general treasurer were secured, many of the early treasurer's records were left behind. This is the reason why so many of the early financial records are to be found in the vaults of the secretary of state and are described in the account of the archives of that office.

Letter books of the general treasurer, 4 vols., 1840–1868:
- Vol. 1. 1840–1848.
- Vol. 2. 1848–1855.
- Vol. 3. 1855–1867.
- Vol. 4. 1867–1868.

Daybook for the year 1732.

Daybook, 1832–1837.

Daybooks, 1840–1860, 5 vols.

Receipt books, 3 vols. (Contain sums paid for notes given by the general treasurer in 1782–1783. Numbered 3, 4, and 5.)

Alphabetical book No. 7, 1781–1792. (Contains discount of money paid on notes to soldiers, etc.)

Journals, Nos. 6 to 27, 1860 to date, 22 vols.

Colony book of accounts, 1757, No. 5. (Contains accounts of general treasurer, 1757–1760.)

Ledger A. (Contains account with the United States 1776–1782, with accounts of final settlement 1814–1816.)

The series of ledgers from 1812 to date is complete, though not lettered consecutively. They are marked as follows:

- 1812–1826.
- 1826–1840.
- 1840–1856.
- 1856–1868.

Then follow volumes 1868 to date, lettered C to I, 7 vols. There is also a volume lettered: "Receipts and expenditures of public money, 1837–1840."

Accounts allowed by the general assembly, 1833–1856, 3 vols.
Active militia ledger, 1843–1845.
Returns of active militia, 1843–1849.
Roll and order book, No. 1 (of Company F, First Rhode Island Regiment or Battalion, Second Brigade, R. I. M., 1863.)
Insurrectionary claims. (Containing payments of expenses incurred on account of the insurrection, 1842–43.)
State in account with the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company, 1868–1872.
Trial balance book, July, 1867–April, 1868.
State tax ledger, 1788–1824.
State and railroad tax, 1849–1854. (Contains also taxes from insurance companies, 1862–1866.)
Bank taxes. (Contains record of taxes assessed on banks, 1862–1866.)
Account of the Touro Jewish Synagogue fund, 1823–1868.
Public deposits book. (Contains accounts of the public deposits received from the United States under act of 1836 and deposited with banks, 1837–1846. Contains also account of permanent school fund, 1855–1868, and of Touro Jewish Synagogue fund, 1855–1872.)
Account of receipts and expenditures of school fund under act of January, 1828, 1826–1856.
Record and register of securities held by and deposited with the general treasurer.
Records of Rhode Island coupon bonds, war debt, 1861.
Accounts of interest on Rhode Island registered bonds, 1867–68.
Record of registered bonds of the State debt, 1867–1891.
Records of the statehouse construction loan, 10 vols.
Records of sums paid out on the court orders, May to October, 1854.
Record of angles to accompany oyster plats. (Angles taken from base lines for locating corner stakes of oyster beds.)
Book of miscellaneous accounts. (Contains hawkers and peddlars' license fees, capital of certain banks, etc.).
Portfolio. Monthly summaries of State auditor, 1881–1884.
The office contains a complete file of vouchers from 1871 to date.
Custom-duties ledger, 1789–90.

The books of the defunct Franklin and Cranston Institutions for Savings and the Merchants' Bank of Newport are in the custody of the general treasurer.

STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE.

The duties of auditor were early performed by committees selected by the assembly. This "general audit" of the colony accounts was made as often as was deemed necessary. At the close of the Revolutionary period the accounts of the colony

had so increased on account of the dealings with the Continental government that a special auditor was frequently appointed. (See schedules, February, 1779, p. 29; May, 1781, p. 63.) In January, 1835, the general treasurer was ordered to serve as auditor of accounts (Schedules, January, 1835, p. 22). In January, 1856, the office of State auditor was created (Schedules, January, 1856, p. 5), and his report has been printed since 1858.

The papers in the State auditor's vault comprise not only his official papers from 1856 to date, but also a vast quantity of accounts, orders, receipts, etc., of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Large chest. (Contains a great mass of miscellaneous documents, chiefly of the eighteenth century. The larger part have been tied up in packages, numbered, and labeled. The papers thus arranged run from 1715 to 1789, and comprise orders on the treasury, warrants, accounts, vouchers, executions, mortgages, bills, loan office certificates, various kinds of bonds, lists of jurors, letters, etc.)

The enumeration of the documents in this chest follows:

Package No. 1: 1776–1786, attendance on the courts, grand and petit jurors.

Package No. 2: Deeds, 1715; canceled bonds, 1750; list of debts, 1764; mortgage deeds for towns, 1787; notes, 1783.

Package No. 3: 1776–1786, general assembly papers for attendance.

Package No. 4: Interest bonds, 1763–1768; sheriff bonds, 1743–1758; accounts, warrants, etc., 1763; subscription list for suffering inhabitants of Boston, 1774 (Newport).

Package No. 5: Bonds, deeds, etc., found among papers of the late Jos. Clarke, 1786; old tenor bonds, 1738; executions against towns of Rhode Island, 1779.

Package No. 6: Attendance on general assembly, grand jurors, etc., 1748–1786.

Package No. 7: Rates certificates, 1750; sundry receipts, 1760; letters of administration, 1762; notes, 1770; miscellaneous bills, 1777; saltpetre certificates, 1777.

Package No. 8: Estates, etc., 1755; letters, 1771–1774; warrants, 1773; execution accounts, 1779–1782; certificates, 1782.

Package No. 9: 1748–1764, attendance on the courts, grand and petit jurors.

Package No. 10: 1750–1772, bonds, 1750–1758, 1760, 1771–72.

Package No. 11: Miscellaneous, bills, etc., 1757–1784.

Package No. 12: 1728–1731–1743, mortgages, sixth bank.

Package No. 13: Newport and North Kingston Colony mortgages.

Package No. 14: 1758–1768–1771, warrants against towns, executions against towns, 1779.

Package No. 15: Interest on State banks, 1785–86.

Package No. 16: Miscellaneous, Revolutionary bills, attendance general assembly, courts, etc.

Package No. 17: Bills, 1755, 1758, 1763, attendance general assembly, grand jury, 1755.

Package No. 18: Letters, 1761–62, Clarke's letters, etc.; bills of exchange; lawful money; money due Ward from colony, 1747; certificates, 1747; list of debts, 1748.

Package No. 19: List of bonds, 1767, 1777; interest notes, 1784; certificates, 1786; executions, 1770, etc.

Package No. 20: Interest on State notes, 1785; interest on loan certificates, 1786.

Package No. 21: Notes, 1757; vouchers, 1758; arrests of men and attached estates, 1765; executions, 1769.

Package No. 22: Executions for June State tax, 1778, 1782, 1785; divers papers of J. Clarke, 1783.

Package No. 23: Vouchers, 1729–1747; old tenor bonds, 1739; bonds taken up by commissioner on mortgages, 1761; list of bond mortgages Kings County, 1764; mortgage bonds, 1736; bonds given by directors market granary lottery, 1760.

Package No. 24: List of mortgages (Smithfield, 1787); executions against towns, 1778–1780; State notes, 1787; loan office certificates, 1779; Continental loan office, 1779; notes, 1784.

Package No. 25: Miscellaneous bills, 1783; money paid out, general assembly, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782; supply of money for treasury; continental certificates, 1777.

Package No. 26: King street lottery, 1768; Rodman's pay receipts, 1739–1753; treasury supply, 1763; writs, 1754–1757–1769; miscellaneous bills, 1759; repairing colony house, 1750; building bridge, repairing Jamestown wharf, 1749–1751; colony interest, 1752; bonds, 1753–54–1758; eighth bank, 1748–1774.

Package No. 27: Bonds, 1750–1760; banks, 1747–1748; deeds, 1750; colony loan, 1756; several bills paid by treasurer, 1748–1761; will, Edward Casey, 1733; indenture of apprenticeship, 1765.

Package No. 28: Bonds, 1761–1772–1755; notes, 1759–1762; writs and executions of Tanner's land, 1769; writs, 1753–1767; Rodman's account with estates, etc., 1743; inventory of Eliz. Huntington, 1746; orders upon treasury to pay lawful money, 1750; bills paid out of general treasury, 1761–1766; Mr. Clarke's accounts, 1760, 1762.

Package No. 29: County bonds, 1741–1764; treasury bonds, 1767; tenor bonds, 1764; sheriff bonds, 1761–1769; lottery bonds, 1761–1767; bonds, 1733, 1742, 1750, 1759; mortgages, notes, etc.; unsatisfied payments, 1755.

Package No. 30: Bonds, mortgages, notes, etc., 1774–1778; lottery bonds, 1774; sheriff bonds, 1778–1779; warrants, 1775, 1778, 1779; bonds, 1773–1785; obligations, 1773; estate of Thomas Bannister, 1784; settlement of estate of late collector and treasurer, 1774; continental certificates, absentees' notes, 1785; collectors' papers, 1773; warrants, Middletown, 1775.

Package No. 31: Bonds, 1778, 1781, 1782; town bonds, 1783; sheriff bonds, 1786; interest bonds, 1786; Warwick's bonds, 1787; treasury bonds, 1779; Washington County bonds, 1786; loan certificates, 1785; ninth bank, 1776; liquidated certificates, 1785; executions, 1785; executions for class money, 1784; interest on State notes, 1785.

Package No. 32: Letters, Hezekiah Babcock's, 1769–1772; to and from Thomas Aldrich, 1744, 1762–1768; letters respecting Samuel Chace, 1773.

Package No. 33: Bills paid out of general treasury, 1777, 1784, 1785; attendance council and grand jury, 1781; State notes, 1788; collector of taxes, 1783; treasurer's notes, 1773; certificates, etc., 1787; miscellaneous bills, 1775–1777–1784–1786; bills for repairing Pawtucket bridge, 1783.

Package No. 34: Letters, 1771–1776.

Package No. 35: Leases, bonds, miscellaneous bills, etc., 1781, 1787, 1789, 1764, 1767.

Package No. 36: Miscellaneous, 1760–1780.

Package No. 37: List of outstanding judgments, 1744, 1767; list of obligations, 1733–1738; bonds, etc., 1757; supplies, boarding soldiers, etc., 1757.

A list of bonds and deeds delivered out of the grand committee's office to be put in suit for county of Newport, 1761–1770.

A list of mortgages, deeds for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations received from executors of will of Edward Thurston.

Accounts of Thomas Freebody and Nicholas Easton, trustees for the city of Newport, 1786, 1790–1796.

Book B, a list of sums received in discharge of the principal of mortgage deeds, 1796–1803.

Book No. 2, accounts with the collectors of interest bonds in the counties of Providence, Washington, Bristol, and Kent. Likewise an account of money received when mortgages are discharged, 1787.

A list of the mortgage deeds for the colony of Rhode Island received from Benjamin Nichols by a committee of the general assembly.

An account of the persons who received the first quarter part of the principal and interest of their 4 per cent notes and the sums paid thereon, together with those who received the whole of their notes under £10, 1788.

"Jos. Clarke His Book of Accounts." 1754. (Jos. Clarke was general treasurer in Newport.)

Account book, 1748.

List of State interest bonds (being the third year's) due from the inhabitants of the county of Newport, 1789.

A list of deeds and bonds belonging to the colony of Rhode Island, delivered to Daniel Rodman to collect what money may be due thereon in Kings County, 1772.

Several bundles of mortgages: 1742, 1751, 1744, 1753, 1745, 1735, 1728, 1738, 1743, 1733, 1747, 1740, 1750, 1715.

One mortgage, 1716; inventory of Edmond Casey estate, 1733.

There are several chests, which, although numbered, are not arranged in any series. The contents of these are as follows:

Chest No. 10: State papers, 1790–1816; sheriffs' bonds, vouchers; returns of courts; accounts of military officers; Col. William Cole's papers; receipts for interest, etc.

Chest No. 7: State papers, 1824–1831; receipts; executions against the managers of the free bridge lottery, January 26, 1830; vouchers; returns of town clerks; bonds; returns of sales of lottery tickets.

Chest No. 8: State papers for 1840 to 1848, inclusive.

Chest No. 1: State papers, 1858 to 1861; State orders paid; receipts; vouchers and orders for witnesses' fees; returns of courts; returns of justices of the peace; returns of towns; Pawtucket turnpike accounts; sheriffs' bonds; bank returns; papers relating to insurance companies; letters; clerks' returns, etc.

Chest No. 12: State papers from 1862 to 1869, inclusive; receipts; bills; orders; returns of banks; commitments to Providence Reform School; vouchers; writs of attachment.

Chest No. 13: State papers from 1870 to 1878, inclusive.

In tin boxes: General vouchers, 1885, 1886; general and State vouchers, 1888; general vouchers, 1887; State institution vouchers, 1887; receipts and vouchers of State auditor's office, 1871–1872; vouchers for State institution, 1884; general and State institution vouchers for 1882; State institution vouchers, 1885; general and State institution vouchers for 1881; general vouchers, 1888; general and State institution vouchers, 1879–1880; general and State institution vouchers for 1883; 7 tin boxes of vouchers undated.

General and State institution vouchers:

One chest, 1889.
One chest, 1890.
One chest, 1891.
One chest, 1892.
One chest, 1893.
One chest, 1895.
One chest, 1896.
One chest, 1897.
One chest State auditor's vouchers, 1898.
One chest State auditor's vouchers, 1899.
General and State institution vouchers, 1900, on shelves.

Chest No. 30: Books of Commercial Bank of Providence, and of the Cranston Bank.

Chest No. 31: Miscellaneous books and papers of Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company.

Red cedar chest: Books of Union Bank.

Record of the meetings of the Rhode Island commission to the Pan-American Exposition, October 31, 1900–November 14, 1901.

Typewritten draft of report of commission, January, 1901.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The first permanent legislation for public schools was in 1828. In 1838 the school committees were required to make returns to the secretary of state. In 1845 the office of commissioner of public schools was created, and in 1870 the board of education was organized and given general supervision of the school system of the State. The archives of the office consist chiefly of the records of the meetings of the board from its organization. The office possesses a practically complete set of the school reports of the various towns, either in manuscript or in printed form, from 1874 to date. The reports previous to 1874 have not been preserved.

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

Before the reorganization of the militia in 1840 all records were kept by the independent companies. Certain returns were made to the secretary of state. The office contains the rosters and order books from 1840 to date.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

This board created in 1869 has charge of the penal, correctional and charitable institutions maintained by the State, with certain few exceptions. The files of the office date from 1869 and consist of the records of meetings of the board and of commitments to State institutions.

OFFICE OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

The files of the railroad commissioner's office date from the year 1888 and consist of the annual returns of corporations filed according to law.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The board was created in 1885. It has on file vouchers from 1885 to date, and the records of the meetings of the board since its creation. Its correspondence is filed from 1885 to date.

OFFICE OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Returns of medical examiners, 1894 to date. (Original returns bound.)

Returns of births, marriages, and deaths are filed in 45 volumes in the office of the secretary of state. (See Secretary of state—vital records.)

The following summary of laws regarding the recording of births, marriages, and deaths, may be of service in this connection:

1647, May. Marriages not to be lawful unless recorded in town clerk's book. (R. I. Col. Rec., i: 187.)

1665, May 3. Law of 1647 ordered to be more duly observed. (R. I. Col. Rec., ii: 104.)

1699, February 14. Reaffirms previous laws as to town clerk's recording births, marriages, and deaths. All persons to hand to town clerk record of marriages, births of children, and burial of dead within ten days. Town clerk to return to head magistrate or justice of peace annually all births, marriages, and deaths, when required. (R. I. Col. Rec., iii: 362.)

1701, October. "An act for preventing of clandestine marriages, and also for the registering of marriages, births, and burials." All marriages to be recorded and names and dates returned by assistant justice or warden to town clerk. All persons desiring to be married to make application to assistant or justice of peace. Births and burials of children to be registered in town clerk's office by parents within two months under pegalty of 12d. fine per month for every month's neglect thereafter. (Digest of 1730, pp. 44–46.)

1727, October. "An act in addition to an act for recording marriages, births, and deaths." Act of 1701 has proved ineffectual because the town treasurer who is not the recorder is empowered to sue for pains and penalties. Town clerk is given power to sue for penalty for neglecting to register marriages, births, and deaths. (R. I. Col. Rec., iv: 395, 396.)

1733, December. "An act for enabling the settled and ordained ministers and elders of every denomination of Christians in this colony to join persons together in marriage," provides that every minister or elder return names of those married to town clerk to be registered. (Digest of 1744, pp. 176–177.)

1839, January. All persons having authority to perform a marriage to lodge in town clerk's office a record of the same. (Schedules, January, 1839, p. 68.)

1844. All persons in authority to perform marriages to lodge certificate of marriage, every parent to lodge certificate of birth, executor to lodge certificate of decease with town clerk, who shall record the same. (Digest of 1844, p. 269.)

1850, January. Act requiring trustees of school districts to make record of births, deaths, and marriages. Commissioner of public schools to make and publish annually abstract of same. Blank forms to be furnished to school districts, clergymen, physicians, etc. Clergymen and others to make returns of marriages. Parents required to make returns of every birth. Physicians and surgeons required to make returns of every death. Undertakers required to make returns of interments. Where no district

school organization exists returns to be made to city or town clerks. Town clerk to keep separate lists of residents and nonresidents. (Schedules, January, 1850, p. 18.)

1852, January. Gives to town clerks and clerk of city of Providence duties given by law of January, 1850, to school trustees, and to secretary of state, together with committee of Rhode Island Medical Society, the duty of making and publishing annually abstract of vital records. (Schedules, January, 1852, p. 4.)

1878, April 28. Law passed establishing State board of health. It had duty of receiving returns of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces; of preparing annual report and of placing returns in office of the secretary of state. (Acts and resolves, January, 1878, p. 107.)

1881, January. Law passed requiring certificate of marriage from town clerk or city registrar previous to marriage. (Acts and resolves, January, 1881, ch. 851.)

1896, February. Requires certificate of prescribed form to be lodged with town or city clerk. The clerk to record in separate books the information contained in certificate. In Providence registrar of births, marriages, and deaths to perform duties of clerk regarding marriages as specified in the law. Everyone performing marriage ceremony to make return on specified form, deliver it to clerk or registrar, who must copy it and send original to secretary of state, to be by him kept on file. (Digest of 1896, ch. 191, sec. 10.)

COURT RECORDS.

The charter of 1644, which went into effect in 1647, created a general court of trials, which was also a court of assize or gaol delivery and a court of common pleas, and which was held twice yearly. In 1664, after the arrival of the charter, a new act upon the judiciary was drawn up. It was enacted that the general court should be held in Newport twice every year; that sessions should also be held at Providence and at Warwick once every year for trial in actions under £10, and that special courts could be summoned at the discretion of the governor. In 1729 the colony was divided into three counties, Newport County, Providence County, and Kings County (now Washington County). A court of general sessions of the peace and a court of common pleas were established in each county, sessions being held together semi-annually. The general court was now termed the superior court of judicature, court of assize, and general gaol delivery, and was held at Newport. In 1747 Bristol County was created and in 1750 Kent County, bringing the total number of counties to five. In 1747 it was enacted that the superior court should be held twice a year in every county in the colony. In 1798 the lengthy title possessed by the superior court was changed to the supreme judicial court and in 1843 was still further shortened to the supreme court. In 1893 a new judiciary act was passed. The old court of common pleas was abolished, at least in name. Henceforth there was but one court, a supreme court, composed of two divisions—the appellate division, sitting only in Providence, Newport, and Washington counties, and the common pleas division, sitting in each of the five counties.

The records of the general court of trials from 1647 to 1669 are in the manuscript volume in the secretary of state's office, labeled "R. I. Colony Records, 1646–1669." Henceforth until the creation of the county system in 1729 the records

were kept at Newport, where they are still preserved. The records are here listed by counties:

NEWPORT COUNTY.

Supreme court, appellate division:

Records of the supreme court, 1671–date, 19 vols. (called general court of trials, 1671–1715; general court of trials and gaol delivery, 1715–1730; superior court of judicature, court of assize, and general gaol delivery, 1730–1799; supreme judicial court, 1799–1844; supreme court, 1844–1893, and supreme court, appellate division, 1893–date). The records from 1750 to 1754 are missing, there being about 200 blank pages left at the end of the volume that runs from 1747 to 1750. In the volume 1772–1795 are also included some records of the court sitting on the trial of naval matters, 1775–1794.

Index to records, 1671–1893, 4 vols.; 1893–date, 1 vol. (arranged by names of plaintiff and defendant).

Docket, 1784–1813, 37 nos.; 1813–1841, 56 nos.; 1841–1893, 14 vols.; 1893–date, 2 vols. (Since 1813 there is one docket for court and one for clerk.)

Minutes, 1733–1893, 22 vols.; 1893–date, 1 vol.

Cost books, 1865–1893, 2 vols.

Records of divorce, 1879–date, 3 vols.

Record of nuisances, 1886–1890, 1 vol.

Record of insolvency proceedings, 1896–1898, 1 vol.

Petitions, declarations, etc., in connection with cases are filed, 1713–date.

Plats are filed, rolled, and in boxes. There is also one volume of plats for supreme court, with index. There is an early plan of Boston Neck, one of Conanicut Island, 1659, and one of the Pettaquamscut Purchase, although the last two plats could not be found in the office at the time of compiling this report.

Common pleas division:

Records of the court of common pleas, 1730–date, 29 vols. (called inferior court of common pleas 1730–1789, court of common pleas 1789–1833, court of common pleas and general sessions of the peace 1833–1838, court of common pleas 1838–1893, common pleas division of supreme court 1893–date).

Index to records, 1730–date, 5 vols. (arranged by plaintiff and defendant).

Docket, 1730–1799, 8 nos. scattered; 1800–1823, 2 nos. to each year; 1824–1893, 16 vols.; 1893–date, 6 vols. (Since 1800 there is one docket for court and one for clerk.)

Minute books, 1730–date, 26 vols.

Record of costs, 1851–date, 6 vols.

Sheriffs' bonds, 1745–date, 6 vols.

Appeal bonds, 1818–1893, 1 vol.

Declarations for naturalization, 1863–date, 7 vols.

Petitions, declarations, executions, etc., in connection with cases are filed, 1730–date.

The records are all in the court-house, or old State-house, at Newport. They are in excellent condition and are well indexed.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY.

Supreme court, appellate division.

Record books, 1747–date, vols. 1–34. (Court is known by its various names of superior court of judicature, supreme judicial court, and supreme court.)

Index to records, 8 vols.

Equity records, 1850 to date, vols. 1–22. (Bills and petitions in equity, with an index, in 6 vols.)

Dockets, 1818–date.

Minute books, 1815–date.

Petitions, declarations, plats, etc., in connection with cases are filed in tin boxes from 1733 to date. The papers for some of the earlier years are filed in labeled packages.

There are a few miscellaneous volumes, plats, models, etc., introduced as evidence and not taken away by counsel.

Common pleas division.

Records of the court of common pleas, 1730–date, vols. 1–65.

Index to records, 22 vols. (11 for plaintiffs and 11 for defendants).

Records of inferior court of common pleas, 1785–1803, vols. A–J, 10 vols. (These seem to be duplicate records of cases from 1785 to 1803 and are not indexed.)

Docket books, incomplete set, especially in the earlier numbers.

Minute books, 1767–date.

Records of special courts, 1819–1890, vols. 1–9. (Special courts for trespass and ejectment actions.)

Cases brought from the court of common pleas to supreme court, common pleas division, 1893, 1 vol.

State cases, 1893–date, 2 vols. (Cases brought by State for default of surety.)

Record of deputations of deputy sheriffs, 1800–1812, 1834–1853, 1854, 1876, 1890, 5 vols. (set incomplete).

Declarations for naturalization, 1852–date, 9 vols., and 3 vols. of indexes.

Depositions in perpetual memory, 1890–date, 1 vol.

Petitions, declarations, recognizances, indictments, etc., relating to cases are filed in packages and in boxes, 1730–date.

Plats, chiefly railroad layouts, are rolled.

There is one small box of early nineteenth century turnpike reports and one box of papers and reports on the Blackstone Canal.

The records are in the county court-house at Providence and are fairly well bound and indexed. The earlier papers, such as are not in bound form, are not very well arranged.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Supreme court, appellate division:

Records, 1747–date, 14 vols. (Called by its various names of superior court of judicature, court of assize and gaol delivery, supreme judicial court, and supreme court.)

Index to records, 1751–date, 6 vols. (3 each for plaintiffs and defendants.)

Dockets run from at least as early as 1785 to date. During the earlier years a small pamphlet contains the docket for three or four years, then there is generally one pamphlet to a year or to a term, and from 1848 to date the dockets are entered in bound volumes.

Minute books, 1747–date, 8 vols.

Cost books, 1885–date, 1 vol. There are several earlier cost books in pamphlet form.

Witnesses' and officers' receipts, 1884–date, 1 vol.

Motion book, 1886–1893, 1 vol.

Record book for insolvent petitions, 1833–1863, 1 vol.

All papers having connection with cases are filed in boxes by terms, 1747–date.

Common pleas division:

Records, 1731–date, 27 vols. (The records from 1730 to 1731 are in two separate pamphlets, not bound like the regular set.)

Index to records, 1731–date, 6 vols. (3 each for plaintiffs and defendants.)

Dockets run from at least as early as 1750 to date, the earlier ones being in paper volumes and the later ones being bound, one volume for court and one for clerk.

Minute books, 1730–date, 12 vols.

Special court of common pleas, records, 1812–1889, 1 vol.; minutes, 1782–1820, 1 vol.

General sessions of the peace, records, 1730–1793, 1 vol.; minute book, 1794–1836, 1 vol.

Cost books, 1835–53, 3 vols. (There are many earlier cost books in pamphlet form).

Witnesses' and officers' receipts, 1884–1899, 1 vol.

Motion book, 1857–1868, 1 vol.

Sheriffs' deputations, 1775–1788 (in dilapidated state in box); 1788–1859, 1 vol.

Records of intentions of aliens to become citizens of the United States, 1859–1883, 1 vol.

Declarations for naturalization, 1881–date, 3 vols.

Depositions in perpetuam rei memoriam, 1860–1886, 1 vol.

All papers relating to cases are filed in boxes by terms, 1730–date.

The records are kept in the Washington County courthouse at Kingston station. The volumes are in good condition and the miscellaneous papers are well filed, but the early dockets and cost books need arranging.

KENT COUNTY.

Supreme court:

Records, 1751–1893, 10 vol. (called by its various titles of superior court of judicature, court of assize and general gaol delivery, 1751–1798, supreme judicial court, 1798–1843, and supreme court, 1843–1893).

Index to records, 2 vols.

Supreme court—Continued.

Dockets, 1829–1893. There are many dockets before 1829 in the attic of the court-house.

Minute books, 1830–1893.

Cost books, 1833–1875, 2 vols.

Record book of insolvent petitions, 1833–1869, 1 vol.

Index to appeals, bills in equity, etc., after 1850.

Original papers relating to cases filed in tin boxes.

Common pleas division:

Records, 1750–date, 14 vols.

Index to records, 2 vols.

Dockets, 1824–date.

Minute books, 1829–date.

Cost books, 1827–1871, 2 vols.

Record of sheriffs' deputations, 1827–date, 2 vols.

Record of naturalization, 1848–1875.

Record book of Washington Manufacturing Company, 1810–1825 (evidently a volume introduced as evidence).

Original papers relating to cases are filed in tin boxes.

Plats relating to cases which are too large to be included in the filing system are rolled.

The records are in the Kent County court-house at East Greenwich and are in good condition.

BRISTOL COUNTY.

Supreme court records:

Records 1747–1893, 5 vols. (Called by its various titles of superior court of judicature, court of assize and general gaol delivery, 1747–1777; supreme judical court, 1802–1843; and supreme court, 1843–1893. The records from 1777 to 1802 seem to be missing.)

Index to records, 1802–1893, 4 vols.

Docket books are very incomplete.

Minute book, 1810–1893, but incomplete.

Cost books, 1860–1893, but incomplete.

Original papers relating to cases are on file, being in tin boxes after 1802.

Common pleas division:

Records of the court of common pleas, 1747–date, 9 vols. (Called by its various titles of inferior court of common pleas, court of common pleas, etc.)

Index to records, 1844–date, 4 vols.

Records of court of general sessions of the peace, 1747–1834, 1 vol.

Docket books, minute books, and cost books are very incomplete.

Original papers relating to cases are on file, being in tin boxes after 1839.

There are a few rolled plats, chiefly railroad plans.

The records are in the Bristol County court-house at Bristol. They are unfortunately in poor shape, being neither well indexed nor well arranged.

TOWN RECORDS.

[NOTE.—In the following report upon the town records, the aim has been to list all of the volumes in the various offices. These have been grouped under the following heads: Town meeting records, town council records, probate records, deeds and land evidence, vital records, assessors' records, school records, miscellaneous records. For convenience, proprietors' records and also plats have been listed under the head of deeds. In the case of tax books and school reports reference is also made to printed material.]

BARRINGTON.

Barrington, whose territory early belonged to Swansey, was incorporated by Massachusetts in 1718. In 1747, when the boundary question was settled, it came under Rhode Island jurisdiction and was merged in the town of Warren. Warren was divided June 16, 1770, and Barrington was again incorporated as a town.

Population: 601 (1774); 534 (1782); 650 (1800); 795 (1850); 1,135 (1900).

Town meeting for both election and appropriations held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Town council and probate court meet on the first Monday of each month.

Town hall is at Barrington Centre.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—Land evidence and probate records from 1718 to 1747 are at Taunton, the shire town of Bristol County, Mass. From 1747 to 1770 all records of Barrington territory are at Warren, of which it was a part.]

Town meeting records from 1718 to 1744 are in a dilapidated unbound volume, which has, however, been transcribed. From 1747 to 1770 Barrington was a part of Warren. From 1770 to date the records are in four volumes. There are also four thin volumes of town-meeting records, evidently minute books, 1770–1776, 1808–1814, 1823–1839, 1839–1864.

Town council records run from 1770 to date, vols. 1–6, the last volume being typewritten. There are also four thin volumes of town-council records, apparently blotters, 1827–1869.

Probate records to 1798 are in town-council records. From 1798 to 1898 they are in a series numbered volumes 1 to 7. From 1898 to date, wills, inventories, probate journals, probate warrants, letters of administration, and administrative accounts are recorded in separate volumes. Each volume is lettered No. 2, 1898 to date, the intention being to transcribe a volume 1 of each subdivision from prior probate records. There is also a bond book, 1873 to date, 1 vol.; probate fee book, 1898 to date, 1 vol.; probate docket, 1895 to date, 1 vol., and probate docket, 1898 to date, 1 vol., the last being a blotter for the use of the probate court. There is

a volume of letters of administration, guardianship, testamentary, titled No. 3, 1867–1898.

Deeds. There is an ancient volume containing deeds, lay outs of land, etc., and titled a "Memoriall or Booke of Records of ye Severall Divisions & bounds of ye Lands at Sawomes," 1653–1797. These are the records of the "proprietors" of Sowams, or the lands included within the present towns of Barrington, Warren, and Bristol, although the meetings were held very irregularly, often at intervals of several years. There is also a transcribed copy of this volume. The regular series of deeds number 18 volumes, 1770 to date, with one volume of a general index. There is a receiving book for conveyances. Mortgages of real estate are in 5 volumes, 1883 to date, and mortgage deeds of personal property are in 1 volume, 1861 to date. A volume of records of deeds of cemetery lots, 1892 to date, might be included under this head. The plats of estates are laid away flat and those of highways and lay outs are filed away rolled. There is a set of four plats mounted on cards, covering all the property in the town, made in 1866 or 1867.

Vital records. There are two small volumes of births, marriages, and deaths, one running from 1717 to 1803 and the other from 1772 to 1854. There are also a few vital records in the first volume of town-meeting records, 1718–1744. From 1850 to date the births, marriages, and deaths are each in a separate volume. There are also intentions of marriage, 1881–1895, 1 vol., and intentions and returns of marriage, 1896 to date, 2 vols. The records as far as 1850 are printed in volume 6 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records. In a case of miscellaneous documents are all the tax assessments from 1770 to 1864. There are 40 volumes of valuation of real and personal estate, 1864 to date. Of the tax collectors' books, 1885 to date, six are small volumes and the remainder are in folio. There is a collector's ledger, 1898 to date. The tax books have been annually printed from 1865 to date.

School records. The school reports have been printed from 1869 to date; from 1873 to 1900, however, being included in the printed abstract of the proceedings of town meetings.

Miscellaneous records:

Treasurers' receipt book, 1737–1746, 1 vol. (discolored with age).
Dog licenses, 1866 to date, 3 vols.
Proceedings of the centennial committee, 1870–71, 1 vol.
Attachment book, 1870 to date, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
Mechanics' liens, 1879 to date, 1 vol.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Notices of pending suits, 1894 to date, 1 vol.
Jurors' book, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment, 1898, in sheets.

There is a case filled with miscellaneous documents, such as warrants, receipts, petitions, etc., chiefly of the eighteenth century.

The records are kept in a fireproof vault in the town hall, and with the exception of the earliest volumes are in good condition.

BRISTOL.

Bristol was incorporated as a town by the Plymouth colony in 1681. On January 27, 1747, it was incorporated as a town by the Rhode Island colony, under whose jurisdiction it had come through the settlement of the boundary question. A portion of the town was annexed to Warren, May 30, 1873.

Population: 1,069 (1748), 1,209 (1774), 1,032 (1782), 1,678 (1800), 4,616 (1850), 6,901 (1900).

Town meeting for elections held on the second Wednesday in March; for appropriations, on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in March. Town council meets on the first Monday of each month, and probate court on the first and third Monday of each month.

Town hall, known as the Burnside Memorial, is in Bristol.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—Land evidence and probate records from 1681 to 1747 are to be found at Taunton, the shire town of Bristol County, Mass.]

Town meeting records are in eight volumes, 1681 to date. The earliest volume, called the "First Book of Records," 1681–1718, and the second volume, 1718–1780, have been transcribed.

Town council records before 1746 are in Taunton. From 1746 to 1759 they are in book of wills, inventories, etc., No. 1, which is succeeded by minutes of town council and probate journal, 1760–1811, vol. 2; town council and probate records, 1811–1825, vol. 3, and town council and probate records, 1825–1838, vol. 4. This is followed by town council records, vols. 4–10, 1838 to date.

Probate records before 1746 are to be found at Taunton. At Bristol are wills, inventories, etc., 1746 to date, in nine volumes. The first two volumes, from 1746 to 1793, have been transcribed. The probate record from 1760 to 1838 is kept together with the records of the town council (see above), and is followed by probate records, vols. 5–14, 1838 to date. Inventories are kept separately from 1811 to date, vols. 2–7. Letters of administration are kept separately from 1815 to date, vols. 2–8. Administrators' accounts are kept separately, 1811 to date, vols. 2–11. Commissioners' reports are kept separately, 1827 to date, vol. 2. There are also probate bonds, vols. 1–11, 1816 to date; record of probate warrants, vol. 1, 1896 to date; and probate docket. The probate records are all well indexed.

Deeds: Land evidence before 1747 is to be found in Taunton, and there are a few early references in the records of the proprietors of Sowams in the Barrington office. In Bristol the deeds run from 1747 to date, in 64

volumes, and are provided with separate volumes of indexes. From 1847 to date the deeds of personal estate have been kept separately in four volumes, although the first is lettered volume 24, having been transferred from the regular series of deeds. There are also an abstract of the colonial records of Taunton, 1680–1747, deeds of burial places, 1865 to date, 2 vols., and a receiving book for conveyances. Plats are in folio volumes, and there is an index both to these and to the various plats in deed books. There is a series of 35 plats covering all the property in the town. A number of seventeenth century deeds, on sheepskin, with the signatures of the proprietors, have been carefully mounted and preserved in a folio volume.

Vital records: The first volume contains chiefly births from 1683 to 1705, the second runs from 1705 to 1746 with a few additional entries, the third is lettered Book No. 2, 1746–1819, and the fourth, containing chiefly deaths and marriages, runs from 1821 to 1851. There is also a small unbound book, deaths and births, 1784–1797. From 1850 to date, births, marriages, and deaths are each in a separate volume. There are also intentions and returns of marriage, 1895 to date, 3 vols. The town is extremely fortunate in possessing the following records kept by private hands: Deaths in Bristol, 1740–1755, apparently a minister's record; list of marriages performed by John Burt, 1741–1775; births, marriages and deaths, 1783–1844, kept by Rev. Henry Wight; and deaths in Bristol, 1785–1833, kept by Rev. Henry Wight. The last has been copied and called Book No. 3. There are also copies of inscriptions on gravestones in Bristol, 1684–1869, and two scrapbooks of printed vital records, 1680–1850, as they were published in the Bristol Phoenix. The town clerk has compiled from all accessible sources a transcript of births, marriages, and deaths, 1680–1815, an excellent index to deaths, 1680–1891, and is indexing all births by the card system. The vital records of the town as far as 1850, not including, however, all the private records, are printed in vol. 6 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records from 1830 to date are contained in 73 volumes. The tax books have been annually printed from 1856 to date, with the exception of several issues between 1858 and 1872.

School records in the town clerk's office are accounts of school land rentals, 1830–1870, 1 vol. The school reports have been annually printed from 1852 to date, with a few possible exceptions.

Miscellaneous records:

Mechanics liens, 1848 to date, 1 vol.
Certificates of manufacturing companies, 1848 to date, 1 vol.
Certificates north burying lot, 1853 to 1873, 1 vol.
Dog licenses, 1866 to date, 6 vols.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 4 vols.
Assignments of wages, 1884 to date, 3 vols.
Liquor licenses, 1885 to date, 1 vol.
Enrollment of males above 20 years of age, 1889, 1 vol.
Naturalization book, 1 vol.
Jurors' book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Town officers, 1894 to date, 1 vol.

Miscellaneous records—Continued.

Census of 1895, town of Bristol, 1 vol (copy of original).

Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.

Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.

Record of commissioners of sinking fund, 1901 to date, 1 vol.

Attachments are filed and indexed.

The Bristol office is one of the model offices of the State, a condition brought about chiefly by the energy of Mr. Bennett, the town clerk, aided perhaps by the fact of his long term of service. The records are exceptionally well bound and indexed, transcripts have been made of most of the early volumes, records in private possession have been obtained and preserved, and a set of the town's newspaper, from 1833 to date, has been secured for reference.

BURRILLVILLE.

Burrillville was taken from Glocester and incorporated October 29, 1806.

Population 1,834 (1810), 3,538 (1850), 6,317 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Monday in June, and for appropriations on the first Monday in May. Town council and probate court meet on the last Saturday of each month.

Town house is at Harrisville.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records are in 2 vols., 1806 to date.

Town council records are in 3 vols., 1806 to date.

Probate records are probate journal, 1806 to date, 5 vols.; probate docket, 1 vol.; record of wills, etc., 1806 to date, 6 vols.; record of bonds, 1873 to date, 3 vols.; letters of administration, guardianship, testamentary, 1862 to date, 1 vol.; and warrants to take inventories, 1896 to date, 1 vol.

Deeds: The deed books, 1806 to date, are in 31 vols. and include mortgage deeds. Personal property mortgages, 1834 to date, are in 4 vols. There is a receiving book for conveyances. Plats are placed in a large folio book and are also filed away rolled.

Vital records from 1806 to 1853 are in a separate volume, which contains a few later entries. From 1853 to date there are 2 vols. each of births, marriages, and deaths. Intentions and returns of marriage, 1896 to to date, are in 3 vols. The records as far as 1850 are printed in vol. 3 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessor's records from 1806 to date are in the office, from 1858 to date being in bound volumes. The tax books have been printed from 1858 to date.

School records in the town clerk's office are boundaries of school districts, 1846–1856, 1 vol., and 1875, 1 vol. The school reports have been printed from 1857 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Record of estrays, 1807–1870, 1 vol.
Mechanic's liens, 1850–1892, 1 vol.
Dog register, 1864 to date, 4 vols.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 3 vols.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 3 vols.
Record of elections, 1892 to date, 3 vols. (1 to each district).
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Lists of jurors, 1898 to date, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment of 1898, in sheets.
Attachment book, 1900 to date, 1 vol.

The records are kept in three safes in the town clerk's office at Harrisville. They are in good condition and the important records, such as deeds and wills, have been indexed.

CENTRAL FALLS.

Central Falls was taken from Lincoln and incorporated as a city February 21, 1895. Lincoln had been separated from Smithfield in 1871. Central Falls to-day contains the largest population of any of the towns within the original Smithfield and accordingly possesses the records of the parent towns.

Population: 15,828 (1895), 18,167 (1900).

Municipal election held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November. City council meets on the first Monday of each month. Probate court meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

City hall is on Summit street in Central Falls.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—The office possesses the records of Smithfield, 1731–1871, of Lincoln, 1871–1895, and of Central Falls, 1895 to date.]

Town meeting records of Smithfield, 1731–1770, are in a bundle with other early Smithfield records in basement vault, and greatly need repairing and binding. From 1771 to 1871 there are 2 volumes. There is 1 volume of Lincoln records, 1871–1894.

Town council records of Smithfield: There are 4 loose bundles of town council records in basement vault, 1731–1748, 1749–1756, 1756–1765, 1765–1771. In the regular vault there are the following: Council book, No. 1, 1734–1749; council and probate records, No. 2, 1749–1768 (the foregoing volumes contain probate matter); council and probate journal, No. 1, 1771–1797; No. 3, 1797–1822; No. 5, 1822–1835; No. 6, 1835–1845; council journal, 1845–1861; council journal, No. 7, 1861–1870; council

journal, 1870–1871 (wrongly lettered "town meeting record"); Lincoln town council journal, 1871–1895, vols. 1–5 (vol. 5 contains also Central Falls council records 1895–1898).

City council records of Central Falls from 1895 to 1898 are in vol. 5 of Lincoln council journal. This is followed by the journal of the board of aldermen, 1898 to date, vol. 2–3.

Probate records of Smithfield from 1731 to 1768 are in council records, and are followed by inventory and probate court record, No. 3, 1769–1797; probate record, No. 3, 1797–1819; probate records, No. 4–13, 1819–1871. Vol. 14–21, 1871–1895, are of Lincoln, and vol. 22–25, 1895 to date, are of Central Falls. Other probate records are petty ledger of probate court, Lincoln, 1891–1895, 2 vols.; Central Falls, 1896 to date, 2 vols.; probate docket; and separate volume of probate index. There is a volume of bond records (guardianship), Lincoln, 1873–1887, in basement vault.

Deeds: Smithfield, 1731–1871, vols. 1–48; Lincoln, 1871–1895, vols. 49–73; Central Falls, 1895 to date, vols. 74–84; all provided with separate volumes of good modern indexes. The following volumes are numbered outside of the continuous series of deeds: Mortgage deeds of personal estate, Lincoln, 1874–1895, and Central Falls, 1895 to date, vols. 1–7; Lincoln record of mortgages, 1889–1895, vols. 1–7; bank mortgages, 1889–1894, vols. 1–2; transfers of mortgages, 1891–1895, 1 vol.; quitclaim deeds, 1889–1895, 1 vol.; record of deeds, Moshassuck cemetery, 1873 to date, 1 vol. There are two volumes of Smithfield personal property mortgage deeds, 1834–1874, in the basement vault. There are two volumes of entry books, 1874–1895, and receiving book for current use. Plats are on large cards, No. 1–100, and A1–A144. These, together with plats in deed books, are well indexed. In the basement vault are plats, fire district, Central Falls, 1 vol.; plats, Lincoln, No. 2, 1 vol.; and one large bundle, marked "Old Brown Paper Assessors Plats, Books of Deed Descriptions, and Tracings of Plats."

Vital records: Smithfield births, marriages and deaths, 1731–1753, are in an unbound volume in basement vault, and from 1739 to 1753 are in council book No. 1. Births, marriages, and deaths, 1725–1820, vol. 1; 1819–1850, vol. 2. Births, 1850 to date, vols. 3–5; marriages, 1850 to date, vols. 3–4; deaths, 1850 to date, vols. 3–4 (Smithfield, 1850–1871; Lincoln, 1871–1895; Central Falls, 1895 to date), all well indexed. Lincoln intentions of marriage, 1881–1894, 2 vols., and Central Falls intentions and returns of marriage, 1895 to date, 2 vols. The records of Smithfield as far as 1850 are printed in vol. 3 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records: The town tax books of Smithfield from 1770 to 1871, and of Lincoln from 1871 to 1874, are in the basement vault in volumes of various shapes and sizes, some bound and some in paper. Valuation books of Lincoln, 1875–1894 (vols. 1–9), and of Central Falls, 1895 to date (9 vols.), are also in the basement vault, with the exception of those in current use. Tax books have been annually printed of Smithfield, 1850–1870; Lincoln, 1871–1895, and Central Falls, 1895 to date.

School reports have been annually printed of Smithfield, 1847–1871; Lincoln, 1872–1895, and Central Falls, 1895 to date.

Miscellaneous records (Smithfield, 1731–1871; Lincoln, 1871–1895; Central Falls, 1895 to date):

- Rules and orders for government of smallpox hospital, 1776, 1 vol., unbound.
- Lien book, 1847 to date.
- Returns of highways, 1847–1886, 1 vol.
- Record of council on highways, 1878–1891, 1 vol.
- Highway account book, 1889–1890, 1 vol.
- Curbing account book, 1889–1893, 1 vol.
- Partnerships and returns of manufacturing corporations, 1859 to date, 1 vol.
- Dog licenses, 1859, 1889 to date, 5 vols.
- Record of fence divisions, 1863–1894, 1 vol.
- Records of board of firewards, 1868–1895, 2 vols.
- Town ordinances, 1 vol.
- Records of voting district, no. 1, 1871–1887, 1 vol.
- Record of election district, nos. 1, 2, 1887–1891; nos. 5, 6, 7, 1892–1895, 5 vols.
- Record of elections, wards 1–5, 1895 to date, 5 vols.
- Registry book, 1871 to date, 12 vols.
- Record of attachments and executions, 1875 to date, 1 vol.
- Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 5 vols.
- Naturalization records, 1888 to date, 1 vol.
- Records of notices pending suit, 1893–1895, 1 vol.
- Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
- Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
- Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
- Licenses of entertainments, 1893 to date, 2 vols. stubs.
- Peddlers' licenses, 1901 to date, 1 vol. stubs.
- Several boxes containing warrants, accounts, petitions, highway layouts, etc., of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The records are kept in two large vaults, one in the town clerk's office and the other in the basement. They are in excellent condition, with the exception of some very early volumes of town meeting, town council, and vital records which are unbound and very much in need of repair. The arranging and filing of the early miscellaneous papers in the basement would be a work of much value.

CHARLESTOWN.

Charlestown was taken from Westerly and incorporated as a town August 22, 1738. Richmond was separated from it in 1747.

Population: 1,002 (1748), 1,821 (1774), 1,523 (1782), 1,454 (1800), 994 (1850), 975 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Tuesday in June, and for appropriations on the Thursday after the first Monday in April. Town council and probate court meet on the first Monday of each month.

Town clerk's office is at Cross's Mills, in the house of the clerk.

RECORDS.

Town Meeting Records from 1738 to 1800 are vol. 1–5 of Town Council Records. From 1800 to date they are kept separately in vol. 1–4.

Town Council Records run from 1738 to 1800, vol. 1–5, and include also Town Meeting and Probate Records and a few records of births, marriages and of earmarks. From 1800 to date the Council Records are kept separately in vol. 6–10, there being two volumes lettered no. 7.

Probate Records from 1738 to 1798 are in vol. 1–5 of Town Council Records, and from 1798 to date in a series by themselves numbered vol. 1–8. These records are indexed only in each volume. There is a volume of Probate Bonds, 1870–date.

Deeds run from 1738 to date, vol. 1–15, and are indexed only in each volume. There is 1 volume of Records of Personal Property, 1840–date. Plats are generally entered in the volume of Deeds, although there are a few plats rolled. There is a large framed map of the Indian Reservation, made in 1881.

Vital Records run from 1739 to 1853 in 1 volume, which also contains records of earmarks, 1772–1874. There are also a few vital records, 1700–1759, in vol. 1 of Town Council Records. From 1853 to date there is one volume each of Births, of Marriages, and of Deaths. Intentions of Marriage run from 1881 to 1895 in 2 volumes, and Intentions and Returns of Marriage from 1895 in 2 volumes. The records as far as 1850 are printed in vol. 5 of Arnold's *Vital Record of R. I.*

Assessors Records run from 1870 to date. The Tax Books have been printed from 1856 to date.

School Reports have been printed from at least as early as 1874 to date.

Miscellaneous Records are as follows:

Town Orders on Treasury, 1805–1887, 1 vol.
Registry Book, 1842–date, 3 vol.
Militia Enrollments, 1856–1882, 1 vol.
Dog Register, 1860–date, 3 vol.
Highway Bills, 1861–date, 2 vol.
Medical Register, 1895–date, 1 vol.
Register of Clergymen, 1896–date, 1 vol.
Jury Book, 1902–date, 1 vol.

The records are in good condition, although not well indexed, and are kept in fire-proof receptacles in the house of the town clerk.

COVENTRY.

Coventry was taken from Warwick and incorporated August 21, 1741.

Population: 792 (1748), 2,023 (1774), 2,107 (1782), 2,423 (1800), 3,620 (1850), 5,279 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Monday in June and for appropriations on the last Monday in May. Town council and probate court meet on the third Monday of each month.

Town clerk's office is at Washington.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records from 1741 to date are in 4 volumes. Vol. 1 contains no records from 1767 to 1789, which are to be found, however, in the original minutes of town meetings 1768–1789.

Town council records: Vol. 1 runs from 1741 to 1766. The records for 1767–1789 are only to be found in a bundle of the original minutes. Vol. 2 runs from 1789 to 1805, which is followed by an unnumbered volume 1805–1818, and by a book also numbered vol. 2 1825–1853. Vols. 3–5 cover from 1853 to date.

Probate records from 1741 to 1766 are in vol. 1 of town council records. From 1764 to date they are in 13 volumes. There are also records of wills, vol. 1, 1890 to date; record of bonds, 2 vols., 1875 to date; record of letters, vol. 1, 1888 to date; miscellaneous bonds, 1 vol., 1900 to date; and a separate volume of probate docket.

Deeds: There is an old unbound volume of proprietors records, 1672–1755. The deeds run from 1741 to date, in 36 volumes. There are also mortgages of personal property, 3 volumes, 1838 to date; real estate mortgages, 5 volumes, 1874 to date; Woodland Cemetery record of deeds, 1 volume, 1874 to date; Maple Root Cemetery record, 1 volume, 1893 to date; and receiving book for conveyances. Plats are rolled. There are several very early plats of divisions of land, including one purporting to be a plat of the original lay out of the town lands. There is a copy of this last plat in the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Vital records from 1741 to 1850 are in 2 volumes, and are separately indexed by births, marriages, and deaths. There are also 3 volumes of marriages, 2 volumes of births, and 2 volumes of deaths from 1850 to date. Intentions of marriage, 1881–1896, are in 2 volumes, and intentions and returns of marriage, 1896 to date, are in 4 volumes. The vital records, as far as the year 1850, are printed in Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island, volume 1.

Assessors records from 1741 to date are in the office, the early years in small manuscript leaflets and the later years in thin volumes. The tax books from 1862 to date have been printed.

School records in the town clerk's office are boundaries of school districts, 1874–1895, 1 volume. The school reports have been printed presumably from 1847 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Record of earmarks, 1741–1865, 1 vol.
Record of highways, 1749 to date, 1 vol.
Registry books, 1842–1866, 1877 to date, 3 vols.
Record of inventories of property at Coventry Asylum, 1854 to date, 1 vol.
Register book of Coventry Asylum, 1854 to date, 1 vol.
Militia lists, 1843–1864, 1 vol.
Record of payments to volunteers, 1861–62, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment, 1898, in sheets.
Record of liens, 1872 to date, 1 vol.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 2 vols.
Record of elections, Districts No. 1, 2, 3, 1889 to date, 3 vols.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Dog licenses, 1897 to date, 2 vols.
Record of jurors, 1897 to date, 1 vol.
Naturalization papers, 1902 to date, 1 vol.

There are a few bundles of early papers and documents, such as warrants, receipts, highway districts, rate bills, etc., and including such important documents as signers of the test oath, 1776, list of polls and estates, 1778, etc. There is also a large block of justice's court records

The records are kept in a fireproof vault in the town clerk's office at Washington. The remarks made at the close of the account of the Warwick Records as to the Warner Papers are also applicable to Coventry.

CRANSTON.

Cranston was taken from Providence and incorporated June 14, 1754. Portions of the town were reunited to Providence June 10, 1868, and March 28, 1873.

Population: 1,460 (1755), 1,861 (1774), 1,594 (1782), 1,644 (1800), 4,311 (1850), 13,343 (1900).

Town meeting for elections held on the Tuesday after first Monday in November; for appropriations, on the third Monday in April. Town council meets on the first Monday of each month and probate court on the second and last Saturdays of each month.

Town hall is at Knightsville.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records are in 4 volumes, 1754 to date. The first volume, 1754–1788, containing also vital records to 1828 and records of earmarks to 1846, is shelved with the vital records and has been transcribed.

Town council records are in 19 volumes, 1754 to date. The first three volumes, 1754–1798, contain probate records.

Probate records, from 1754 to 1798, are in the town-council records. From 1798 to date they are in a series numbered vols. 1–28, and since 1849 wills, inventories, letters of administration, guardianship letters, executors' bonds, etc., are in separate volumes. There are also 2 volumes of bonds to probate court, 1872 to date, and probate docket.

Deeds are in 103 volumes, 1754 to date. The first two volumes have been transcribed. From 1857 to date, however, the record of mortgages of real estate are in a separate series, vols. 1–34. The personal property mortgages are in a series, vols. 1–9, 1834 to date. Receiving book for deeds is kept. The plats are arranged in 2 series of large volumes, 5 of street and grade plats and 7 of books of plats, and are also filed in large drawers. For use in the office the plats are copied on large cards, numbered 1 to 135. There are separate volumes of indexes to the property plats and to the street plats. In the deed office in the Providence city hall there are 2 volumes of indexes to all deeds in Providence records referring to Cranston territory, 1755–1868.

Vital records: There are 2 volumes of vital records from 1754 to 1850, the first, 1754–1828, being the first volume of town meeting records. From 1850 to date births are in 3 volumes, marriages in 2 volumes, and deaths in 3 volumes. The vital records to 1850 are printed in volume 2 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records: In the assessor's office are 2 record books of meetings, 1870 to date; 37 assessors' plats, covering the town; 37 indexes to assessors' plats, 37 field books, 67 tax books for the past sixty-seven years, 5 ledgers, and 2 records of plats. In the town clerk's office are 2 volumes of tax-levy books, 1885 to date, and 2 volumes of tax-collectors' sales, 1875 to date. The tax books have been annually printed from 1857 to date.

School records: There is 1 volume of extracts from the records of the commissioners of public schools, 1828–1882. The school reports have been annually printed from 1849 to date, with a few possible exceptions.

Miscellaneous records:

Justice's court records, 1850–51, 1872–1884, 1884–1886, 3 vols.; civil judgments, 1872–1885, 1 vol.; civil record, 1872–1880, 1 vol.; docket, 1872–1886, 1 vol. There are many earlier court records as yet unarranged.

Bonds of limited partnership, corporation certificates, and other contracts, 1851 to date, 1 vol.

Record of liens, 1856 to date, 1 vol.

Census of Cranston, 1865.

Census of Cranston, 1875.

Dog licenses, 1866 to date, 3 vols.

Registry book, 1877 to date, 3 vols.

Record of attachments and executions, 1 vol.

Record of commission for erecting town hall, 1885, 1 vol.

Record of assignment of wages, 1885 to date, 1 vol.

Record of elections 1888 to date, 5 vols.

Miscellaneous records—Continued.
Town ordinances, 1 vol.
Applications to build, 1891–1903, 1 vol.
Suits pending, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
List of jurors drawn, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment, 1898, 1 vol.
Sewage licenses, 1881–1890, 1 vol.
Druggists' licenses, 1896 to date (on stubs), 1 vol.
Liquor licenses, first class, 1897 to date (on stubs), 1 vol.
Liquor licenses, 1901 to date (on stubs), 1 vol.
Peddlers' licenses, 1903 to date (on stubs), 1 vol.

There is a large block of papers, such as warrants, petitions, summons, receipts, highway returns, tax-lists, etc., from 1754 to about 1860, and as yet unarranged.

The Cranston records are as well indexed as those of any other town in the State, the deeds, probate records, and plats being provided with separate volumes of indexes. Certain volumes, as noted above, have been transcribed, and taken as a whole the records are in excellent condition, easy of access, and safely kept in a large fireproof vault.

CUMBERLAND.

Cumberland, formerly a part of Attleborough and known as Attleborough Gore, came into the possession of Rhode Island upon the settlement of the boundary controversy with Massachusetts in 1746, and was incorporated as a Rhode Island town January 27, 1747. Woonsocket was separated from Cumberland in 1867.

Population: 806 (1748), 1,756 (1774), 1,548 (1782), 2,056 (1800), 6,661 (1850), 8,216 (1865), 3,882 (1870), 8,925 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Wednesday in June and for appropriations on the second Wednesday in June. Town council and probate court meet on the first Thursday of each month.

Town hall is on Broad street in Valley Falls.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—Land evidence and probate records that concern Cumberland territory previous to 1747 are to be found at Taunton, the shire town for Bristol County.]

Town meeting records from 1747 to 1759 are mixed with other records in a volume lettered "Probate records, No. 1–3." From 1759 to date town meeting records are in vols. 1–4.

Town council records from 1747 to 1758 are mixed with other records in a volume lettered "Probate records, No. 1–3," and from 1758 to date are in town council records, vols. 2–17.

Probate records run from 1747 to date, vols. 1–33, in 31 volumes. (Vols. 1, 2, and 3 are bound in 1 volume, and contain town meeting, town council, and vital records.) There are also the following: Bonds, 1874–1889, 1 vol.; administration bonds, 1893 to date, 1 vol.; guardianship bonds, 1894 to date, 1 vol.; guardians' bonds, sale of real estate, 1894 to date, 1 vol.; bonds to pay debts and legacies, 1894 to date, 1 vol.; executors' bonds to return inventories, 1895 to date, 1 vol.; accounts, 1895 to date, 1 vol.; wills, 1895 to date, 1 vol.; inventories, administration and guardian, 1895 to date, 1 vol.; letters of administration, etc., 1895 to date, 1 vol.; probate docket, 1896 to date, 1 vol.

Deeds run from 1747 to date, vols. 1–52, with 4 volumes of separate index. Mortgages of personal property run from 1834 to date, vols. 1–7. There are 6 volumes of street plats and profiles and 5 volumes of town plats, with indexes for each. Receiving book for deeds is kept.

Vital records from 1729 to 1760 are in the volume lettered "Probate records, No. 1–3." There are 3 volumes of births and deaths, 1716–1850, and 2 volumes of marriages, 1746–1850. These are followed by record of births, No. 4, 1850–1901, 1 vol., 1901 to date, 1 vol.; record of marriages, vols. 3 and 4, 1850–1895, 2 vols., 1895 to date, 1 vol.; record of deaths, vol. 4, 1852–1901, 1 vol. There are also 5 volumes of intentions and returns of marriage, 1896 to date. The records as far as the year 1850 are printed in vol. 3 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records: Town tax, 1872 to date, is in 15 volumes. The tax books have been printed, 1854 to date.

School reports have been printed from 1848 to date, although some of the earlier numbers can not be located in any collection.

Miscellaneous records:

Marks of sheep, No. 2, 1760–1827, 1 vol.
Corporation returns, 1848 to date, 1 vol.
Mechanics' liens, 1855 to date, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 11 vols.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 2 vols.
Registry of dogs, 1884 to date, 3 vols.
Report of trustees on cemetery, 1890–1900, 1 vol.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Attachments and executions, 1894 to date, 1 vol. (index).
Naturalization book, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Record of voting districts, 1896 to date, 5 vols.
Liquor licenses, licenses for entertainments, etc., kept in stub volumes.

The records are kept in a large vault in the town hall at Valley Falls and are in good condition.

EAST GREENWICH.

East Greenwich was incorporated as a town October 31, 1677. It was divided in 1741 and West Greenwich separated from it.

Population: 240 (1708), 1,223 (1730), 1,044 (1748), 1,663 (1774), 1,609 (1782), 1,775 (1800), 2,358 (1850), 2,775 (1900).

Town meeting for elections held on the second Saturday in June and for appropriations on the second Wednesday in August. Town council and probate court meet on the last Thursday of each month.

Town hall is at East Greenwich.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records from 1667 to 1678 are apparently lacking. From 1678 to 1752 they are to be found in the volume wrongly lettered "town council records, 1681–1752," which contains also earmarks 1713–1716, vital records, 1650–1716, and a very few town council entries. From 1752 to 1793 they are in a volume so lettered, and from 1793 to date they are contained in 3 volumes, numbered vols. 4–6.

Proprietor's records: There are several volumes of proprietor's records, one of which, from 1711 to 1829, is wrongly lettered "Council records, 1711–1805." There is an old volume in bad condition containing proprietor's records from 1711 to 1766, also 1709–1735, 1715, etc., 1828–1834, in same loose volume. There are also a few entries of 1715–16 in book 2 of land evidence.

Town council records: There seems to be no records of the town council before 1715, except such entries as are scattered through the volume wrongly lettered "Town council records, 1681–1752," and vols. 1 and 2 of land evidence, 1678–1704 and 1703–1717. The regular series apparently begin with the volume of town council records, 1715–1729. This is followed by council book 5 B, 1730–1752; council book, 1752–1784; book No. 4, 1784–1807; book 5 A, 1807–1826; book No. 6, 1826–1845, and by books Nos. 7 to 12, 1845 to date. The volume labeled "Council records, 1711–1805," is in reality proprietors' records from 1711 to 1829.

Probate records prior to 1715 are apparently scattered through the same early volumes as are the town council records. From 1715 to date they are contained in 10 volumes. There are 2 volumes of bonds, 1872 to date, and a probate docket. The probate records have indexes in each volume.

Deeds: Land evidence book 1, includes deeds, 1678–1704, a few vital records, 1680–1713, a few probate entries, 1684, 1691, 1698, 1704, and earmarks 1684–1686. Land evidence book 2 includes deeds, 1703–1717, vital records, 1682–1715, and a few inventories, earmarks, and proprietor's records. Land evidence book 3 contains deeds, 1717–1724. There is also an additional volume of land evidence book 3, 1716–1759, containing mortgages. Books 4 to 23 continue the series of land evidence from 1724 to date. The volumes of mortgages run from 1729 to date, the last one

being vol. 11. Mortgages of personal property are in 3 volumes, 1835 to date. There is a receiving book for deeds. Plats are rolled and there is one large folio book of plats, which is indexed. There are three early plats preserved, two of 1711 and 1734 showing the compact part of the town, and one of 1726 of territory southwest of the town.

Vital records from 1650 to 1716 are scattered throughout the volume of town meeting records lettered "Town council records, 1681–1752," from 1680 to 1713 in the first volume of land evidence, from 1682 to 1715 in the second volume of land evidence, and from 1746 to 1752 in the first volume of probate records. The regular series of vital records run from 1716 to 1851, in 4 volumes, and are continued by 1 volume of births, 1 of marriages, and 1 of deaths from 1850 to date. Intentions of marriage and intentions and returns of marriage run from 1881 to date, in 4 volumes. The records as far as 1850 are printed in vol. 1 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors records: The original tax-lists have been preserved, from 1836 to date, with a few exceptions, and there are a few scattered lists of the eighteenth century. The tax books have been printed from 1863 to date.

School records: The school reports have been printed in 1857 and from 1870 to date, with possibly issues for intervening dates.

Miscellaneous records:

Record of earmarks, 1716–1856, 1 vol.
Bank mortgages, 1741–1754, 1 folio unbound vol.
Book of estrays, 1755–1863, 1 vol.
Record of justice's court, 1782–1828, 11 pamphlet vols.
Notary public record, 1795–1816, 2 vols.
Docket of notes and accounts received for collection, 1823–1835, 1 vol.
Book of militia enrollments, 1862–1880, 1 vol.
Militia lists, 1881–1885, 1 vol.
Registry of voters, 1842–1855, 1842–1876, 2 vols.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
Dog register, 1864 to date, 4 vols.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 1 vol.
Jury lists, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Mechanics' liens, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Pending suits, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
A large number of bundles of miscellaneous papers, chiefly records of justices' courts.

The records are kept in fireproof quarters in the town hall at East Greenwich. Several of the early volumes have been preserved by the Emery process.

EAST PROVIDENCE.

The town of Seekonk was taken from Rehoboth and incorporated as a Massachusetts town in 1812. On the settlement

of the boundary controversy between Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the westerly part of Seekonk came into the possession of Rhode Island and was incorporated as the town of East Providence, March 1, 1862.

Population: 2,172 (1865), 12,138 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, and for appropriations on the second Monday in November. Town council meets on the first Wednesday of each month and probate court meets on the second Monday of each month.

Town hall is on Taunton avenue in East Providence.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—The records that concern East Providence territory previous to 1862 are deposited as follows: Town meeting and vital records from 1645 to 1812 are at Rehoboth and from 1812 to 1862 at Seekonk. Land evidence and probate records from 1686 to 1862 are at Taunton.]

Town meeting records from 1862 to date are in 2 volumes.

Town council records from 1862 to date are in 9 volumes.

Probate records from 1862 to date are as follows: Probate court journal, vols. 1–4; record of wills, vols. 1–2; record of inventories, commissioners' reports and accounts, vols. 1–4; letters of administration, vols. 1–2; letters of guardianship, vols. 1–2; letters testamentary, vols. 1–3. There are also 4 volumes of probate bonds, 1873 to date; 1 volume of probate warrants, 1899 to date, and probate docket. Probate records are indexed in each volume from 1862 to 1895, and in the probate docket from 1895 to date.

Deeds run from 1862 to date, vol. 1–50, and are provided with 6 volumes of indexes. Mortgages of real estate run from 1862 to date, vol. 1–31, with 3 volumes of index. Personal property mortgages run from 1862 to date, vol. 1–7. There is a receiving book for conveyances. Plats are in 9 folio volumes, with an index to lot owners and an index to plats. Highway plats are in 11 folio volumes, with an index. There are also 38 folio plat cards.

Vital records: There are 2 volumes each of births, of marriages, and of deaths, 1862 to date, with 3 volumes of indexes. There are also 5 volumes of intentions of marriage and intentions and returns of marriage, 1881 to date.

Assessors' records and also the collector's book run from 1862 to date. There are 9 volumes of tax book fire districts, 1890–1898. The tax books have been printed from 1863 to date, with the probable exception of 1864, 1865, and 1866.

School reports have been printed from 1863 to date, being published in the reports of town officers, 1876 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Highway records, 1865 to date; 1 vol. (includes copies of highway layouts taken from Rehoboth records, 1684–1856).

Miscellaneous records—Continued.

Attachments and executions, 1872 to date, 1 vol.
Tax collectors returns of auction sales, 1873–1883, 1 vol.
Census of East Providence, 1875, 1 vol.
Enrollment of militia, 1875 to 1885, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 4 vols.
Dog licenses, 1879 to date, with an index of 2 vols.
Vaccination records, 1882 to date, 2 vols.
Assignment of wages, 1885 to date, 1 vol.
Record of liens, 1885 to date, 1 vol.
Liquor licenses, 1890 to date.
Druggist liquor licenses, 1892 to date.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Entertainment licenses, 1901 to date.
Peddlers licenses, 1903 to date.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Notice of pending suits, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Military enrollment of 1898, 1 vol.

The records are in a fireproof room in the town hall on Taunton avenue, and are in good condition and well indexed.

EXETER.

Exeter was taken from North Kingstown and incorporated as a town March 8, 1743.

Population: 1,174 (1748), 1,864 (1774), 2,058 (1782), 2,476 (1800), 1,634 (1,850), 841 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Tuesday in June, and for appropriations on the first Tuesday in April. Town council and probate court meet on the first Monday of each month.

Town Hall is at Pine Hill, but all the records in daily use, at the present writing, are kept in the town clerk's house, about 2 miles east of the town hall.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records are in 8 volumes, 1743 to date.

Town council records are in 19 volumes, 1743 to date. Vols. 1–17 include probate records.

Probate records, 1743 to date, are contained in vols. 1–17 of town council records and separately in probate records, vols. 18–20. There are also 2 volumes of probate bonds, 1873 to date, 1 volume of probate index, and 1 volume of probate docket.

Deeds are in 21 volumes, 1743 to date. From 1882 to date mortgages are kept separately, vols. 20–21. There is a separate volume of index of

deeds. Personal property book, 1834 to date, 2 volumes (vol. 2 includes also assignments of wages, receipts and agreements, and leases). Most of the plats are recorded in the deed books, although there are a few rolled.

Vital records are in 1 volume, 1743–1853. Since 1850 there are two each of births, of marriages, and of deaths. There are 3 volumes of intentions of marriage, 1881 to date. The records as far as the year 1850 are printed in Vol. 5 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors records: Nearly all of the original tax books are in the office from 1850 to date. The tax books have been printed from 1855 to date. In the Westerly Public Library there is a manuscript volume containing autograph accounts of rateable estates in Exeter, apparently all of the year 1767.

School reports have been printed from 1851 to date, although a few reports previous to 1870 have not been located in any collection.

Miscellaneous records:

Record of the board of canvassers, 1876 to date, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
Dog licenses, 1892 to date, 1 vol.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1 vol. (has no entries).

There are a few old volumes, such as militia lists, dog licenses, tax records, etc., in the town hall, which are not enumerated in this report.

There are two safes provided for the records in the town hall near Pine Hill, but at the present time most of the records are kept in the town clerk's house. They are in excellent condition, and are fairly well indexed.

There is a collection of Exeter papers preserved in the library of the Rhode Island Historical Society, a description of which can be found in Rhode Island Historical Society Publications, iv: 35, vi: 43. They have been arranged and classified under the following headings:

Town meeting records, 1764–1862.
Town meeting warrants, 1831–1863.
Town council records, 1788–1858.
Highway orders, 1814–1866.
Reports and plats of highways at various times.
Bonds, 1740–1841.
Deeds, 1744–1839.
Indentures, 1760–1850.
Tax books, 1733–1844.
Tax lists.
Wills and probate matter.
Lists of rateable estates.

A few military papers.
Miscellaneous letters.
Letters to Jonathan Arnold, 1796–1803.
Probate papers, 1780–1862 (4 bundles).
Town treasurer's accounts and bills (3 bundles).
Justice's Court records, 1818–1834.
Miscellaneous papers (2 boxes).

FOSTER.

Foster was taken from Scituate and incorporated August 24, 1781.

Population: 1,763 (1782), 2,457 (1800), 1,932 (1850), 1,151 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the last Monday in May and for appropriations on the last Monday in March. Town council and probate court meet on the first Saturday of each month.

Town clerk's office is at Foster Centre.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records are in 2 volumes, 1781 to date.

Town council records are in 4 volumes, 1781 to date.

Probate records are in a series labeled Wills, 1782–1887, vols. 1–11; probate records, 1887 to date, vols. 12–13. There are also 2 volumes of records of bonds, 1873 to date.

Deeds are in 20 volumes, 1782 to date. There are 4 volumes of mortgages of real estate, 1861 to date, and 1 volume of records of personal estate, 1835 to date. Some of the plats are in a volume and others are rolled.

The plat of the Westconnaug Purchase, drawn in 1734 and coverning the southern half of the town, is now preserved in the library of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Vital records from 1782 to 1850 are in 1 volume. From 1850 to date there is one volume each of births, of marriages, and of deaths. There is 1 volume of intentions of marriage, 1881–1896, and 2 volumes of intentions and returns of marriage, 1896 to date. The records as far as 1850 are printed in Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island, vol. 3.

Assessors' records: There are 8 volumes of tax records from 1871 to date, variously labeled. The tax books have been printed from 1868 to date.

School records in the town clerk's office are boundaries of school districts, 1846–1855, 1 vol. The school reports were printed separately in 1874, 1875, and 1876, and in the tax books from 1878 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Militia lists, 1843–1882, 1 vol.
Records of board of canvassers, 1843 to date, 2 vols.
Registry of voters, 1851–1889, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1889 to date, 1 vol.

Miscellaneous records—Continued.
Records of dogs, 1870 to date, 3 vols.
Vaccination list, 1881, 1 vol.
Record of jurors, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.

The records, although well bound and in good condition, are not well indexed and are not kept in fireproof receptacles. At the time of the compilation of this report, however, the town is preparing to change the town clerk's office to more suitable quarters.

GLOCESTER.

Glocester was taken from Providence and incorporated February 20, 1731. Burrillville was separated from it in 1806.

Population: 1,202 (1748), 2,945 (1774), 2,791 (1782), 4,009 (1800), 2,872 (1850), 1,462 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Monday in June, and for appropriations on the third Saturday in April. Town council and probate court meet on second Saturday of each month.

Town clerk's office is in Chepachet.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records are in 3 volumes, 1731 to date.

Town council records are in 5 volumes, 1731 to date. Vols. 3, 4, and 5 are wrongly lettered 4, 3, and 4.

Probate records, wills, and inventories are in 8 volumes, 1733 to date, and contain indexes in each volume. Vol. 2 is lettered "Highways and wills," and contains, in addition to wills, 1781–1796, 163 pages of records of highways, 1733–1815. Vol. 6 is lettered "Probate records," and vols. 7 and 8 are lettered "Probate court records." The probate records are kept separately from 1815 to date, in 4 volumes. The record of bonds are in 2 volumes, 1873 to date, the first volume, 1873–1882, containing also attachments and mechanics' liens from 1896 to date. There is a volume of probate docket, 1896 to date.

Deeds: The deed books run from 1731 to date, in 38 volumes, and include mortgages. They are indexed in each volume, and there is a general index to volumes 1–21. Personal property mortgages, from 1834 to date, are in 2 volumes, vol. 2 including also assignment of wages and bills of sale. There is a receiving book for deeds. Plats are rolled.

Vital records from 1731 to 1850 are in 1 volume, well indexed. From 1850 to date there are 2 volumes each of births, marriages, and deaths. Intentions of marriage, 1881–1895, 2 volumes, and intentions and returns

of marriage, 1896 to date, 2 volumes. Records previous to 1850 are printed in vol. 3 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records: The tax books from 1862 to date are in separately bound volumes. Prior to 1862 they are filed. The tax books have been printed in 1859, and from 1864 to date, with the probable exception of 1865.

School records in the town clerk's office are boundaries of school districts, 1839–1896, 1 vol., and school account book, 1846–1862, 1 vol. School reports have been printed from 1858 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Limits of highways, 1826 to date, 1 vol.
Militia lists, 1843–1885, 1 vol.
Treasurer's journal, 1876 to date, 3 vols.
Treasurer's ledger, 1876 to date, 2 vols.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment of 1898, in sheets.
Justices' court record, 1873–1893, 1 vol.
Justices' court record, 1881–1886, 1 vol.
Justices' court civil docket, 1873–1886, 1 vol.

There are several boxes of loose papers, such as receipts, warrants, accounts, indentures, etc., chiefly of the eighteenth century.

The records are kept in two safes in the town clerk's office in Chepachet. The early records have been carefully rebound and are in excellent condition.

HOPKINTON.

Hopkinton was taken from Westerly and incorporated March 19, 1757.

Population: 1,808 (1774), 1,735 (1782), 2,276 (1800), 2,477 (1850), 2,602 (1900).

Town meeting for elections held on the first Tuesday in June, for appropriations on the Thursday before the last Tuesday in May. Town council and probate court meet on the first Monday of each month.

Town hall is in Hopkinton City.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records are in 4 volumes, 1757 to date.

Town council records are in 13 volumes, 1757 to date.

Probate records are in 19 volumes, 9 of which, 1757–1859, are classed as town council records, and 10 of them, 1859 to date, are strictly probate records. There are 2 volumes of probate bonds, 1872 to date, and 1 volume of probate docket, 1895 to date.

Deeds are in 26 volumes, 1757 to date.

Vital records: The births, marriages, and deaths from 1757 to 1851 are to be found in the various volumes of town meeting records. From 1851 to date there is 1 volume each of births, of marriages, and of deaths. Marriages are also recorded in 4 small volumes, 1881 to date, and from 1881 to 1896 the intentions and returns of marriages are in a thin folio volume. All the vital records from 1757 to 1850 are printed in Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island, vol. 5.

Assessors' records prior to 1891 are filed as documents. From 1891 to date they are contained in 4 volumes. The tax books have been printed annually from 1855 to date, with the exception of the year 1860.

School records: There is 1 volume of the boundaries of school districts, 1828–1903. The reports of the school committee and superintendent have been printed annually from 1856 to date, with the probable exception of the year 1863, which does not seem to be in any set.

Miscellaneous records:

Mortgages of personal property, 1834 to date, 3 vols.
Highway lists, 1861–1889, 4 vols.
List of militia (also lists of jurors) 1869–1882, 1 vol.
Dog licenses, 1874 to date, 3 vols.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 2 vols.
Records of voting districts, 2 vols. (one for Hope Valley and one for Ashaway).
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.

The records, which are mostly indexed and are in good condition, are kept in safes in the town hall at Hopkinton City.

JAMESTOWN.

Jamestown, on the island of Conanicut, was incorporated November 4, 1678.

Population: 206 (1708), 563 (1772), 344 (1782), 501 (1800), 358 (1850), 1,498 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers and for appropriations held on the first Wednesday in April. Town council and probate court meet on the fourth Monday of each month.

Town clerk's office is on Narragansett avenue, in Jamestown.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records, called in the early period records of the "Proprietors and freemen," from 1679 to 1744 are in the volume lettered "Proprietors' records, births, marriages, and deaths." This volume, which includes also town council records and earmarks, has been preserved by the Emery process, but has pages 15–39 very much misplaced. Town meeting records from 1744 to 1796 are in the volume lettered "Book of town records, No. 3." From 1797 to 1857 they are in a volume numbered Book 4. From 1858 to date they are in 1 volume.

Town council records from 1697 to 1744 are in the volume lettered "Pro-

prietors records, etc." From 1744 to 1766 they are in the volume lettered "Book of town records, No. 3." This is followed by town council, No. 4, 1767–1813; town council No. 5, 1813–1849; town council 1849–1874; probate and town council, No. 5, 1874–1887, and probate and town council, No. 6, 1887–1895. From 1895 to date town council records are kept separately in vol. No. 7.

Probate records previous to 1895 are kept in the same volumes with town council records, *q. v.* There are also some probate records from 1680 to 1730 in the volume of land evidence, No. 1. From 1895 to date, probate records are kept separately in vol. 7. There is a volume of probate docket, 1896 to date.

Deeds: Land evidence, from 1680 to 1730, is in the volume lettered "Land evidence, No. 1." This volume also contains probate records from 1680 to 1730, proprietors records, 1722, a few Indian deeds of 1657–1659, and a plat of Goulds Island, 1752, laid in. It has been preserved by the Emery process, but unfortunately lacks a few leaves at either end. There is also a typewritten copy of this volume. From 1730 to date land evidence is numbered vol. 2–15. There is a separate volume of index and a reception book. Personal property mortgages, 1841 to date, are in 2 volumes, the first in paper. Plats are rolled. There is a plat of the early lay out of lands on Conanicut, 1659, filed among the records of the Newport County court, although at the present writing it can not be found. There is said to be an early copy of this plat framed and hung up in the John E. Watson house on Conanicut Island.

Vital records from 1667 to 1850 are scattered throughout the volume lettered "Proprietors records, births, marriages, and deaths," and have been printed in vol. 4 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island. From 1850 to date there is 1 volume each for births, marriages, and deaths. Intentions of marriage, 1882–1896, are in 1 volume, and intentions and returns of marriage, 1896 to date, in 2 volumes.

Assessors records for the last half of the nineteenth century are preserved only in the original sheets. From 1899 to date the original lists are kept in 1 volume. The tax books have been printed in 1854, 1860, 1863, 1865, 1869, and possibly intervening dates, and 1870 to date.

School reports from 1874 to date exist in manuscript in the office of the State board of education.

Miscellaneous records:

Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
Dog licenses, 1885 to date, 2 vols.
Record of licenses, No. 1, 1891 to date, 1 vol.
Naturalization papers, 1892 to date, 1 vol.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Index of writs of attachment, 1894 to date, 1 vol.
Notices of liens, No. 1, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1898 to date, 1 vol.
Record of elections, 1901 to date, 1 vol.

The records are kept in two safes in the town clerk's office and are in good condition. A card catalogue index of probate and land evidence is in progress.

JOHNSTON.

Johnston was taken from the town of Providence and incorporated March 6, 1759. The more populous portion of the town was annexed to Providence in May, 1898, and nearly all the records were removed to the Providence city hall.

Population: 1,031 (1774), 996 (1782), 1,346 (1800), 2,937 (1850), 11,203 (1895), 4,305 (1900).

Town meeting for election held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, and for appropriations on the first Monday in April. Town council meets on the second Friday in each month, and probate court on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Town clerk's office is at Thornton.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records before 1898 are in the office of the Providence city clerk. The Johnston office has transcripts of the records from 1796 to 1898 in 3 volumes. The records from 1898 to date are kept in a volume lettered 1884 to date, the entries from 1884 to 1898 being merely minutes. The lists of town officers are kept in a separate volume, 1891 to date.

Town council records from 1759 to 1898 are in the office of the Providence city clerk. The Johnston office has the records from 1898 to date in 2 volumes.

Probate records from 1759 to 1898 are in the office of the municipal court of Providence. The Johnston office has a volume of transcripts of probate records, 1875–1898, but of wills only, and the record from 1898 to date in 9 volumes not numbered serially. There is also a volume of probate docket.

Deeds from 1759 to 1898 are in the office of the recorder of deeds of Providence. The Johnston office has a volume of transcripts of deeds, 1876–1898, lettered vol. 13. The deeds from 1898 to date are in 4 volumes, lettered vol. 61 and vols. 1–3. Mortgages from 1898 to date are in 3 volumes, lettered vols. 63, 14, and 1. Personal property mortgages are in 3 volumes, vol. 1 being 1898 to date, and vols. 2 and 3 being transcripts, 1892–1898. There is also an index, 1892–1898, and a receiving book. The plats of estates as far as 1898 are in the Providence deed office, the Johnston office having copies of those in the remaining portion of Johnston and also all plats from 1898 to date. Of street plats and profiles, the Johnston office has only those of the remaining portion of Johnston, the plats of the annexed portion being in Providence.

Vital records: The original volumes from 1759 to 1898 are in the office of the Providence city registrar. The Johnston office has copies of births, marriages, and deaths, 1759–1898, and 1 volume of births, 1 volume of deaths, and 2 volumes of intentions and returns of marriages from 1898 to date. The records as far as 1850 are printed in vol. 2 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records: The Johnston office has only the manuscript volumes, from 1898 to date, in 9 volumes, and the poll-tax books, from 1898 to date, in 6 volumes. The tax books have been printed from 1857 to date.

School reports have been printed from 1857 to date, with a few possible exceptions between 1858 and 1870.

Miscellaneous records (most of the volumes before 1898 being in their appropriate offices in the Providence city hall):

Registry book, 1895 to date, 2 vols.
Application to build, 1901 to date, 1 vol.
Attachments, executions, and mechanics liens, 1876–1896, 1 vol.
Attachment book, 1898 to date, 1 vol.
Pending suits, 1899 to date, 1 vol.
Record of liens, 1898 to date, 1 vol.
Record of leases, 1898 to date, 1 vol.
Dog book, 1898 to date, 1 vol.
Assignment of wages, 1898 to date, 1 vol.
Registration of clergymen, 1898 to date, 1 vol.
Jury book, 1899 to date, 1 vol.
Record of elections, 1896 to date, 2 vols. (districts No. 3 and 4; districts No. 1 and 2 having been annexed to Providence).
Registry of bonds, issue of February 1, 1892, 1 vol.

The records are kept in a vault in the town clerk's office in Thornton.

LINCOLN.

Lincoln was taken from Smithfield and incorporated March 8, 1871. Central Falls was taken from Lincoln and incorporated February 21, 1895, and the records from 1871 to 1891 were placed in the office at Central Falls.

Population: 7,889 (1871), 20,355 (1890), 8,937 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, and for appropriations on the second Monday in June. Town council meets on the first and third Thursday of each month, and probate court meets on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Town clerk's office is on Lonsdale avenue in Lincoln.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—The records from 1871 to 1895 are in the office at Central Falls, *q. v.*]

Town meeting records from 1895 to date are in 1 volume.

Town council records from 1895 to date are in 1 volume.

Probate records, including records, wills, bonds, and letters, from 1895 to date, are in 4 volumes. There is a probate docket, 1895 to date, and an inventory book, 1897 to date.

Deeds from 1871 to date are in 16 volumes. The deeds from 1871 to 1895 are transcribed from the records at Central Falls. There is a separate

volume of index and a receiving book. Plats are filed in thin folio volumes.

Vital records: From 1895 to date there is 1 volume each of births, of marriages, and of deaths. Intentions and returns of marriage are in 6 volumes, 1895 to date.

Assessors records from 1895 to date are in 7 volumes. Tax books have been printed from 1871 to date, including from 1871 to 1895 the territory of the present Central Falls.

School reports have been printed from 1872 to date, including from 1872 to 1895 the territory of the present Central Falls, and from 1895 to date being bound in with the annual reports.

Miscellaneous records:

Assignment of wages, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Attachments, liens, and notices of pending suits, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Jury book, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Dog licenses, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Record of elections, 1892 to date, 4 vols. (1 for each district).
Registry book, 1895 to date, 4 vols.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Town licenses, 1901 to date, 2 vols.

LITTLE COMPTON.

Little Compton, one of the five towns received from Massachusetts in 1746 by royal decree, was incorporated as a Rhode Island town January 27, 1747. It had previously been incorporated as a town by the Plymouth colony in 1682. As incorporated by Rhode Island it included nearly the whole of the original town of Little Compton and a small part of the town of Dartmouth.

Population: 1,152 (1748), 1,232 (1774), 1,341 (1782), 1,577 (1800), 1,462 (1850), 1,132 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers and for appropriations held on the first Tuesday in April. Town council and probate court meet on the second Monday of each month.

Town hall is at Little Compton Commons.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—The town meeting and vital records before 1747 are still in the possession of the town, but the land evidence and probate records before that date, according to the Massachusetts system, are at the county seat at Taunton.]

Town meeting records. The earliest volume, called "Town records, vol. 1, 1697–1779," contains town meeting records of 1682 and 1696 to 1774, vital records, 1672–1774, earmarks, etc. This volume is preserved by the Emery process. "Town record, vol. 2," contains town meeting

records, vital records, etc., from 1775 to 1823. Town meeting records run from 1823 to date, vols. 3–5.

Town council records run from 1747 to date, in 11 volumes. Volumes 1 to 8 include probate records.

Probate records are included in vols. 1–8 of town council records, 1747–1841. From 1841 to date they are kept separately in volumes lettered vol. 9–14. There are also records of town council for administrators bonds, 1747–1798, 1 vol.; record of bonds, 1832–1852, 1 vol.; executors, administrators, and guardians bonds, 1871 to date, 1 vol.; index to council and probate, 1747–1888, 1 vol.; probate docket, 1 vol.

Deeds: The town possesses the original "Book of records for the proprietors of the lands of Little Compton," 1673–1755, and also a transcript of the same made in 1843. Land evidence runs from 1747 to date, vol. 1–18. Personal property records run from 1842 to date, vol. 1–2. There is a separate index of grantees and a receiving book. Such plats as are too large to enter in the deed books are filed. The town possesses the original plat of the lands of Little Compton, which, however, is much in need of repair.

Vital records from 1672 to 1823 are in vol. 1 and 2 of the "Town record." There is also a volume containing a transcript of the vital records in the "Town record No. 1," 1681–1774. The records from 1823 to 1850 are not in the possession of the town. From 1850 to date there is one volume each of births, of marriages, and of deaths. Intentions of marriage and intentions and returns of marriage run from 1881 to date in 4 volumes. The records as far as the year 1850 are printed in vol. 4 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records, with the exception of very recent years, do not seem to be in the office. The tax books have been printed from 1891 to date.

School reports have been printed from 1878 to date, with the exception of 1881 and 1894. The manuscript reports for 1875–1877, 1881 and 1894 are preserved in the office of the board of education.

Miscellaneous records:

Town treasurer's book, 1798–1875, 1 vol.
Town asylum account book, 1848–1882, 2 vols.
Militia lists, 1843–1888, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1842–1876, 1877 to date, 3 vols.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment of 1898, in sheets.

The records are kept in a safe in the town hall at Little Comptons Commons, and are in fairly good condition.

MIDDLETOWN.

Middletown was taken from Newport and incorporated June 16, 1743.

Population: 680 (1748), 881 (1774), 678 (1782), 913 (1800), 830 (1850), 1,457 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers and for appropriations held on the first Wednesday in April. Town council and probate court meet on the third Monday of every month.

Town hall is on the West Road in Middletown.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records, 1743 to date, are in 4 volumes.

Town council records, 1743 to date, are in 10 volumes. Vols. 1–6, 1743–1850, include probate records.

Probate records from 1743 to 1850 are in vols. 1–6 of town council records. From 1850 to date they are in a separate series, numbered vols. 7–13, partially indexed in each volume. There is also 1 volume of bonds, 1872 to date; 1 volume of administrators' bonds, 1890 to date; 1 volume of executors' bonds to return inventory, 1893 to date; several volumes of the original bonds, bound; 1 volume of probate docket.

Deeds. There is an old volume of proprietors' records, 1701–1756. Land evidence runs from 1743 to date, vols. 1–19, with a general index in 2 volumes. Mortgages run from 1754 to 1861, vols. 2–4. Conveyances of personal property are in 2 volumes, 1834 to date. There is a receiving book, 1896 to date, and an index of agreements, mortgages, etc. Plats are rolled.

Vital records from 1700 to 1850 are in 1 volume. From 1850 to date there is 1 volume each for births, marriages, and deaths. Intentions of marriage, 1881–1895, are in 3 volumes, and intentions and returns of marriages, 1896 to date, are in 2 volumes. The records as far as the year 1850 are printed in vol. 4 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors records: Only the original tax assessments of recent years have been preserved. The tax books have been printed from 1866 to date, the pamphlet since 1878 being called the "Yearbook of Middletown."

School records in the town clerk's office are as follows: Boundaries of school district No. 1, 1846–1876, 1 vol.; records of district No. 1, 1846–1903, 2 vols. School reports have been printed from 1880 to date, and the reports exist in manuscript from 1874 to 1879 in the office of the State board of education.

Miscellaneous records:

Registry book, 1842–1876, 1877 to date, 3 vols.
Lists of enrolled militia, 1843–1882, 2 vols.
Record of dog licenses, 1864 to date, 2 vols.
Census of Middletown, 1865, 1875, 2 vols.
Records of the overseer of the poor, 1871 to date, 2 vols.
Mechanics' liens, 1861 to date, 2 vols.
Index to writs, executions, liens, etc., 1 vol.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 1 vol.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment of 1898, 1 vol.

The records are kept in two safes in the town clerk's office. In few offices in the State are the early records so carefully preserved and so well arranged.

NARRAGANSETT.

Narragansett was taken from South Kingstown and incorporated as a district March 22, 1888. It was incorporated as a town March 28, 1901.

Population: 1,408 (1890), 1,523 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Monday in June, and for appropriations on the third Monday in May. Town council and probate court meet on the third Monday of each month.

Town hall is at Narragansett Pier.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—From March, 1888, to June, 1901, the records are those of the District, and since the latter date of the Town.]

Town Meeting Records from 1888 to date are in 1 volume.

Town Council Records from 1888 to date are in 3 volumes.

Probate Records from 1888 to date are in 2 volumes. There is a preceding volume of Transcripts, 1868–1888, a volume of Bond Records, 1889–date, and a Probate Docket, 1896–date.

Deeds, Land Evidence from 1888 to date is in 4 volumes. There are 2 preceding volumes of Transcripts from South Kingstown Records, 1868–1888. The Real Estate Mortgage Records, 1888–date, are in 5 volumes, the Personal Property Records, 1888–date, in 2 volumes, and there is 1 volume of Transcript of Mortgage Records, 1868–1888. There is a separate volume of Index to Grantors and Grantees of Land Evidence and Mortgages, and a Recording Book, 1896 to date. Plats of estates are recorded in the volumes of land evidence and there is 1 volume of Plats of Highways and 1 of Plats of Sewers.

Vital Records from 1888 to date are in 3 volumes, one each for Births, Marriages, and Deaths. Intentions of Marriage, 1888–1896, are in 1 volume, and Intentions and Returns of Marriage, 1886–date, in 2 volumes.

Assessors Records from 1888 to date are in 16 volumes, there being one Tax Book for each year. The Tax Books have been printed from 1888 to date.

School Reports have been printed from 1888 to date.

Miscellaneous Records are as follows:

- Dog Register, 1888–date, 1 vol.
- Record of Elections, 1888–1900, 1 vol.
- Registry Book, 1888–date, 2 vols.
- List of Jurors, 1893–date, 1 vol.
- Writs of Attachment, 1893–date, 1 vol.
- Medical Register, 1895–date, 1 vol.

Miscellaneous Records, etc.—Continued.
Register of Clergymen, 1896–date, 1 vol.
Assignment of Wages, 1897–date, 1 vol.
Mechanics' Liens, 1898–date, 1 vol.
Survey of Line between Narragansett and So. Kingstown, 1898, 1 vol.

The records are in excellent condition, well bound and indexed, and kept in fire-proof receptacles.

NEW SHOREHAM.

New Shoreham, admitted to the colony as Block Island in 1664, was incorporated November 6, 1672. Although its corporate name is New Shoreham, it is generally known as Block Island.

Population: 208 (1708), 575 (1774), 478 (1782), 714 (1800), 1,262 (1850), 1,396 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, and for appropriations on the first Tuesday in June. Town council and also the probate court meet on the first Monday of each month.

Town hall is about a mile from the steamboat landing.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records from 1672 to 1800 are recorded in deed books. From 1800 to date they are in 6 volumes.

Town council records from 1800 to 1844 are recorded in deed book. From 1844 to date they are in 5 volumes. Prior to 1800 town council business seems to have been transacted in town meeting.

Probate records prior to 1800 are kept in the deed books. From 1800 to 1900 they are in 7 volumes. From 1900 to date there is a separate volume of wills, one of bonds and letters, one of inventiories and accounts, and one of probate decrees and acts. There is a probate docket and a separate volume of probate index.

Deeds: The volumes of land evidence run from 1672 to date in 18 volumes. From 1672 to 1800 they served as general record books for deeds, mortgages, probate matter, vital records, town-meeting records, etc. The first volume, 1672–1715, which contains also a few deeds as early as 1660, is not arranged chronologically, but appears to have been made up of records written on separate pieces of paper later gathered and bound in book form. There are 3 volumes of mortgages of real estate, 1872 to date; 1 volume of mortgages of personal property, 1876 to date, and separate volumes of index to grantors and grantees. Plats are rolled.

Vital records prior to 1850 are kept in the deed books and are printed in Vol. 4 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island. From 1850 to date there is one volume each of births, of marriages, and of deaths. Intentions and returns of marriage are in 3 volumes.

Assessors' records are recorded in town-meeting record books, but the original tax books are turned over to the town treasurer. The tax books have been printed from 1889 to date.

School reports have been printed, 1878–1880, 1882 to date. The manuscript reports for 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1881 are in the office of the State board of education.

Miscellaneous records:

Militia lists, 2 vols.
Dog licenses, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
Assignment of wages, 1 vol.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.

The records are in fair condition and are kept in two large fireproof safes, one at the town hall and the other in the town clerk's residence.

NEWPORT.

Newport, one of the four original towns, was settled in 1639, having separated itself from Portsmouth. Line between Portsmouth and Newport established September 14, 1640. Middletown separated from Newport in 1743. Newport incorporated as a city June 1, 1784, but city charter repealed March 27, 1787. Incorporated again as a city May 6, 1853.

Population: 2,203 (1708), 9,209 (1774), 5,532 (1782), 6,739 (1800), 9,563 (1850), 22,034 (1900).

Municipal election held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November. City council meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Probate court meets every Monday.

City hall is on the corner of Broadway and Bull street.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—As is well known, the Newport records previous to the Revolution are in an almost ruined state, owing to the fact that the British carried away the manuscript records of the town upon the evacuation of the place in October, 1779. They were taken charge of by Walter Chaloner, the Tory sheriff of Newport, in a small vessel accompanying the British fleet. Passing Hell Gate the vessel struck, sank, and remained under water for several days. Governor Greene complained of the loss of the records to General Washington, who used his endeavors to recover them. They were finally rescued and deposited in a store in New York. They remained there unopened until the Newport town council, hearing of their whereabouts, sent a request July 29, 1782, for their return. General Carleton replied that he did not know that they were in New York, and apologized for their detention. They were returned in December, 1782. (See Bull's Memoirs of Rhode Island; R. I. Hist. Soc. Coll., vi: 249,251 R. I. Hist. Soc. Publ., i: 144; Newport MS. Town Records, 1779–1816, pp. 59, 70, and Jackson's Antiquarian Map of Newport in the Redwood Library.) The records were examined in 1857 and considerable of the part relating to land evidence copied. Within the last few years the Newport city council has recognized the urgent necessity of

more carefully preserving these valuable records even at this late day, and has appropriated occasional sums to have them repaired by the Emery Record Preserving Company of Taunton. This is being done under the watchful care of Mr. R. Hammett Tilley, librarian of the Newport Historical Society and State record commissioner.]

RECORDS.

Town meeting records: The records of the town of Newport from 1639 to 1644 are in the volume of the secretary of state's office labeled "Records of the Island of Rhode Island, 1638–1644," and are printed in the R. I. Colonial Records, vol. 1, pp. 87–128. In the present custody of the Newport Historical Society is a bundle of original town meeting records from 1673 to 1776, from which the bound volume labeled "Town Records 1679–1776" was copied; also a volume, preserved by the Emery process, of town meeting records, 1682–1739. The city clerk's office possesses a volume of transcript of early town meetings, 1681–1739, and a transcript of town meeting records, 1679–1776. The regular series of town meeting records run from 1779 to 1853 in 4 volumes.

Town council records: The Emery process volumes, now in custody in the Newport Historical Society, are labeled as follows: 1702–1707, 1707–1716, 1714–1719, 1719–1724, 1743–1750, 1756–1760. All of these 6 volumes contain probate records. The following 5 volumes are ready to bind: 1714–1730, 1731–1741, 1743–1751, 1751–1756, 1760–1765, 1766–1771. There are also three bundles of scattering town council records: 1702–1711, 1716–1741, 1766–1771. The regular series of town council records run from 1784 to 1853, in four volumes, although the records from 1784–1787 in the first volume are properly entitled the records of the city council.

City council records run from 1853 to date in 6 volumes. The records of the city council run from 1853 to date in 5 volumes. The records of the board of aldermen run from 1853 to date in 7 volumes. Petitions, reports, resolutions, and miscellaneous papers are filed in tin boxes from 1853 to date, one box for each year.

Probate records before 1779 are contained in the town council records that have been preserved by the Emery process. (See under Town council.) From 1779 to date the probate records are in 59 volumes. The index is in 5 volumes. Probate bonds of administrators are in 25 volumes, 1775 to date. There is also a loose volume of administrators' bonds to Newport town council, 1739–1768, in the town records in the present custody of the Newport Historical Society. In the city hall are the following volumes: Executors' bonds, 1806 to date, 7 vol.; executors' bonds to pay debts, 1875 to date, 2 vol.; executors' bonds to pay funeral charges, 1873 to date, 1 vol.; guardianship bonds, minors, 1873 to date, 8 vol.; guardianship bonds, adults, 1873 to date, 2 vol.; guardianship bonds, sales of real estate, 1873 to date, 7 vol.; guardianship bonds, sales of estates for payment of debts, 1875 to date, 2 vol.; bonds, sale of real estate, when more is to be sold than is necessary, 1874 to date, 2 vol.; bonds of administration with will annexed, 1873 to date, 4 vol.; probate proceedings, 1870–1875, 2 vol.; probate minute books, proceedings, and blotters, 1808 to date, 68 vol.; memorandum of probate business, 1861–1888, 1 vol.; probate ledger fees, 1878 to date, 4 vol.; letters testamentary,

1879 to date, 2 vol.; letters of administration, 1879 to date, 3 vol.; letters of guardianship, 1883 to date, 1 vol.; appraisers' warrants, 1879 to date, 3 vol.; commissioners' warrants, 1881 to date, 1 vol.; records of claims filed, 1896 to date, 1 vol.; probate docket, 1896 to date, 3 vol.

Deeds: The Emery process volumes in the present custody of the Newport Historical Society are as follows: Newport town records, land evidence, 1712–1719, 1714–1719, 1720–1729, 1721–1725, 1721–1730, 1730–1733, 1748–1751, 1770–1772. A card index to these 7 volumes has been begun. The following are ready to bind: 1714–1724, 1726–1731, 1732–1756, 1757–1774, 1763–1775. The following are in loose form: Land evidence book 15, 1761–1766, and 3 bundles of scattering deeds, 1714–1776. There is also a loose volume of proprietors' records, 1702–1703. In the city clerk's office are two volumes of transcripts, one made in 1857 and the other copied from the earlier one in 1885, but with the addition of being in typewritten form and having an index of names. These include a transcript of the proprietors' records, 1638–1644, births, marriages, and deaths of Friends, 1638–1719, records of the proprietors of Long Wharf, 1739–1855, records of towns commons and of the proprietors, 1702–1757. There are also 3 volumes lettered "R. I. Colonial Records," which are transcripts of the Newport deeds from the first three volumes of land evidence in the office of the secretary of State. The regular series of land evidence in the possession of the city begins with 1780 and runs to date in 83 volumes. The first volume is called "Book of Land Evidence, No. 1, after the Evacuation of the British Forces." The index to grantors and grantees is in separate volumes and there are 8 volumes of reception books for conveyances, 1857 to date. Mortgages of land evidence run from 1855 to date, vol. 1–41, and are provided with a card index. Mortgages of personal property run from 1834 to date, vol. 1–9, and are provided with a card index. There is a volume of deeds of Island Cemetery, 1840–1842, and one of deeds of City Cemetery, 1866 to date. Plats are rolled and are indexed only in the index of land evidence. There are 3 volumes of plats of street numbers, and a card index to the layout of streets. An old plat of the town drawn in 1713 is framed and hung in the clerk's office.

Vital records: In the present custody of the Newport Historical Society are two bundles of the original records of births, marriages, and deaths, which run from 1666 to 1774, and from which the volume of copies of births, marriages, and deaths in the city clerk's office was made. In the latter's office are 2 volumes of vital records from 1747 to 1850. From 1850 to date there are 3 volumes each of births, of marriages, and of deaths, with a separate volume of index for each. Intentions of marriage run from 1881 to 1896, in 2 volumes, and intentions and returns of marriage run from 1896 to date in 4 volumes. Birth, marriages, and deaths from 1878 to date are filed in tin boxes, one box for each year. The records as far as the year 1850 are printed in vol. 4 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records: In the assessors' office in the city hall are 6 volumes of assessors' plats (ledgers), 1 volume of index of names, 1 volume of index of plats, and the assessor's plats mounted on 44 folio cards. The original

tax books from 1781 to date are nearly all, if not all, preserved in the city clerk's office. Before 1827 they are in paper covers, and since that date in bound volumes of varying size and thickness. The registry tax books from 1845 to date are in 59 volumes, several from 1845 to 1879 being in the storage vault in the basement of the city hall. The poll-tax books from 1889 to date are in 15 volumes. The tax books have been printed in 1832, 1841, 1849, 1850, and 1852 to date. From 1865 to date they are included in the annual volumes of city documents.

School reports have been printed from 1854 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Town laws, 1779–1807, 1 vol.

Certificates of legal inhabitance, 1780–1840, 1 vol. (In the town records at present in the custody of the Newport Historical Society is a loose volume labeled certificates of residence, 1737–1776.)

By-laws Engine Company No. 2, 1812–1841, 1 vol. (paper).

Roll of Aquidneck Engine Company, 1863–1873, 1 vol. (paper).

Record of funds (Freebody fund 1813, Touro fund 1855–1864, Elam Infirmary fund 1815–1850, Fry Orphan fund 1859) 1 vol.

Records of Touro street fund, 1823–1857, 1 vol.

Census of 1820, 1 vol.

Census of 1875, 1 vol.

Census of 1880, 1 vol.

Records of the board of health, 1819–1853, 1 vol.

Record of attachments, 1821 to date, 2 vols.

Records of the Newport Asylum, 1820–1899. (These consist of journals, ledgers, lists of inmates, minutes of overseers, etc., and are partly in the city clerk's vault and partly in the storage vault in the basement. There are also several volumes in the loft of the street commissioner's office on Long Wharf. There are nearly 50 volumes in all.)

Registry book. Most of the registry books from 1843 to 1877 are in either the city clerk's vault or the basement vault. From 1877 to date they are in 6 volumes.

Militia lists, from 1844 to 1885, are in both vaults in the city hall.

Vaccination book, 1845, 1850, 1855, 3 vols. (paper); 1883, 2 vols.

Mechanics' liens, 1847 to date, 1 vol.

Certificates of manufacturing corporations, 1853 to date, 1 vol.

Records of committees, 1853–1867, 1 vol.; 1875–1902, 33 vols.

Assignments, leases, bills of sale, etc., 1857 to date, 4 vols.

Records of Coggeshall poor fund, 1865–1867, ledger, 1868–1877, order book, 1878–1881, 3 vols.

Record of burials in city cemetery, 1866–1879, 1 vol.

Records of ballots, 1887 to date, 10 vols. (2 for each ward).

Enrollment of males above 20 years of age, 1889, 1 vol.

Ordinance revising the ordinances, August 5, 1890, 1 vol. (paper).

Record of jurors, 1893 to date.

Record of itinerant venders, 1894–1896, 1 vol.

Notices of pending suits, 1894 to date, 1 vol.

Miscellaneous records—Continued.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment, 1898, 1 vol.
Minute-books, or blotters, of town meetings and town council.
Treasurers' records (in boxes in basement vault).

The following offices are also in the city hall and possess the currently kept records of their respective departments: Overseers of the poor, school committee, city treasurer, board of health, street commissioners, park commission, sealer of weights and measures, inspector of milk and nuisances, inspector of plumbing, inspector of kerosene.

NORTH KINGSTOWN.

North Kingstown was incorporated October 28, 1674, under the name of King's Towne. The name was changed to Rochester in 1686, but was restored in 1689. Kingstown was divided into North Kingstown and South Kingstown in February, 1723, the act providing that North Kingstown should be the older town. Exeter was separated from North Kingstown in 1743.

Population: 1,200 (1708), 2,472 (1774), 2,328 (1782), 2,794 (1800), 2,971 (1850), 4,194 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Tuesday in June and for appropriations on the third Tuesday in May. Town council and probate court meet on the second Monday of each month.

Town hall is at Wickford.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—A bad fire in the town clerk's office, December 16, 1870, greatly damaged the records, nearly all of which, however, have since been repaired and preserved by the Emery process.]

Town meeting records are in 5 volumes, 1696 to date. The first 4 volumes are preserved by the Emery process. Vol. 1, 1696–1780, apparently contains no record of meetings between 1707 and 1720, and the records previous to 1696 either were not kept or have not been preserved.

Town council records are kept in the probate volumes.

Probate records, including town council records, wills and inventories, etc., run from 1692 to date in 41 volumes, the first volume being lettered vol. 1–5 and the last vol. 45. The volumes before 1870 are preserved by the Emery process. There are also 2 volumes of probate bonds, 1873 to

date, 1 separate volume of probate index, and a probate docket. The records between 1674 and 1692 do not seem to have been preserved. On the fly leaf of the first volume of probate records is the contemporaneous marking "Book 6," giving evidence of the existence of earlier volumes. Such probate records before 1723 as affected South Kingstown lands were transcribed in 1723 from the Kingstown volumes and are now in the office at Wakefield.

Deeds: Land evidence, 1686 to date, is in 69 volumes. These are lettered, however, vol. 1–45, since most of the volumes before 1870 have been rebound by the Emery process in two volumes. Many early deeds can be found in the Fones Record, or the records of the Narragansett Proprietors, 1659–1703, published by J. N. Arnold in 1894, the original of which is in the secretary of state's office. There are 2 volumes of mortgages of personal estate, 1870 to date, and one volume containing a few deeds rerecorded 1870–1872. There is a separate volume of index to the deeds, and all deeds and mortgages from 1871 to date are indexed by the card system. Plats are rolled.

Vital records from 1700 to 1850 and from 1740 to 1812 are in 2 volumes, and there is a volume of births, of marriages, and of deaths, 1850–1870. All these have been repaired by the Emery process. A few births and marriages, recorded in 1707–1709, are in town meeting records, vol. 1. Such vital records from 1678 to 1722 as related to South Kingstown people were transcribed in 1723 for the South Kingstown records and are now in the office at Wakefield, These more properly should be mentioned in connection with North Kingstown records. From 1871 to date there is a volume each of births, of marriages, and of deaths. There is a volume of intentions and returns of marriage, 1899 to date. The vital records to 1850 have been printed in Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island, vol. 5.

Assessors' records: Tax assessment records, 1882 to date, are in 7 volumes. Registry taxes received, 1877–1888, are in 1 volume. The tax books have apparently been printed from 1855 to date, although those for 1856–1860, 1862–1864, 1866–1867, do not seem to be in any collection.

School reports from 1870 to date have been printed.

Miscellaneous records:

- Record of mechanics' liens and statements of corporations, 1874 to date, 1 vol.
- Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
- Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 1 vol.
- Dog licenses, 1889 to date, 1 vol.
- Peddler's licenses, 1901 to date, 1 vol.
- Jury lists, 1893 to date, 2 vols.
- Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
- Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
- Record of writs, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
- By-laws and acts relative to highways, 1858, 16 pages (printed).
- Miscellaneous pages of records. This is a volume made up of stray pages rescued from the fire of 1870 and containing land evidence, highway layouts, earmarks, etc., 1696, 1756–1856, scattered.

The records are kept in a good-sized vault in the town hall at Wickford. The town has wisely spent about $2,000 in preserving by the Emery process the records burned in the fire of 1870.

NORTH PROVIDENCE.

North Providence was taken from Providence and incorporated June 13, 1765. Portions were reunited to Providence June 29, 1767, and March 28, 1873. On March 27, 1874, the town was divided, a portion was annexed to Providence, another part was annexed to Pawtucket, and the remainder, still called North Providence, was left the smallest in area of any town in the State.

Population: 830 (1774), 698 (1782), 1,067 (1800), 7,680 (1850), 20,495 (1870), 1,303 (1875), 3,016 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, and for appropriations on the last Saturday in March. Town council meets on the first Monday of each month, and probate court meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Town hall is at Centredale.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—The records from 1765 to 1874 are in the city hall at Pawtucket, *q. v.*]

Town meeting records, 1874 to date, 1 vol.

Town council records, 1874 to date, 5 vols.

Probate records, 1874 to date, 4 vols.; probate bond book, 1874 to date, 2 vols.; probate docket, 1 vol.

Deeds: Land evidence, 1854–1874, 3 vols., has been transcribed from the old records now at Pawtucket. Deed books run from 1874 to date, vols. 1–10. Personal property mortgages run from 1875 to date, vols. 1–3. There is a receiving book for conveyances. Plats are rolled.

Vital records: There is one volume each of births, of marriages, and of deaths, 1874 to date. Intentions of marriage run from 1881–1896, 2 vols., and intentions and returns of marriage from 1896 to date, 2 vols.

Assessors' records are in 30 volumes, 1874 to date. Tax books have been annually printed from 1874 to date. The tax books of the old town were printed in 1842 and from 1853 to 1874.

School reports have been annually printed from 1847 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

- Enrollment of militia, 1874–1885, 1 vol. (also includes jurors' list, 1893 to date).
- Book of attachments (includes mechanics' liens), 1874 to date, 1 vol.
- Enrollment of males above 20 years of age, 1889, sheets.
- Assignment of wages, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
- Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.

Miscellaneous records—Continued.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Enrollment of militia, 1898, sheets.
Dog licenses and liquor licenses kept in stub volumes.

The records are kept in safes in the townhouse at Centredale. They are in good condition, but are provided with no separate volumes of indexes.

NORTH SMITHFIELD.

North Smithfield was taken from Smithfield and incorporated as the town of Slater March 8, 1871. The name was changed to North Smithfield March 24, 1871.

Population: 3,088 (1880), 3,173 (1890), 2,422 (1900).

Town meeting for elections held on the first Monday in June, and for appropriations on the second Monday in June. Town council and probate court meet on the last Saturday of each month.

Town clerk's office is in Slatersville.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records are in 1 volume, 1871 to date.
Town council records are in 3 volumes, 1871 to date.
Probate records are in 3 volumes, 1871 to date, and are indexed. There is 1 volume of records of probate bonds, 1898 to date.
Deeds: There are 6 volumes of transcripts of Smithfield deeds and 1 of mortgages, from 1850 to 1871. These are followed by 12 volumes, 7 of deeds and 5 of mortgages—covering from 1871 to date, but lettered on the back vols. 4 to 15. These are indexed.
Vital records include 1 volume of births, 1 of marriages, and 1 of deaths, from 1871 to date. There are also 2 volumes of intentions and returns of marriages, 1896 to date.
Assessors' records are in 4 volumes, lettered town tax, 1871 to date. The tax books have been printed annually, 1871 to date.
School records: The annual reports of the school committee have been printed from 1872 to date.
Miscellaneous records:
Dog register, 1871 to date, 3 vols.
Militia roll, 1871–1882, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1871 to date, 3 vols.
Record of attachments, 1872 to date, 1 vol.
Census of North Smithfield, 1880, unbound vol.
Chattel mortgages and bills of sale, 1881 to date, 1 vol.
Assignment of wages, 1882 to date, 2 vols.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Several loose plats, rolled up.

The records are kept in two large safes in the town clerk's office at Slatersville and are in good condition.

PAWTUCKET.

Pawtucket comprises, first, the Massachusetts town of Pawtucket, which was separated from Seekonk in 1828, ceded to Rhode Island in 1862, and incorporated as a Rhode Island town March 1, 1862; and, secondly, the village of Pawtucket in North Providence, which was annexed to the town of Pawtucket May 1, 1874. The town was incorporated as a city March 27, 1885.

Population: 5,000 (1865), 18,464 (1875), 39,231 (1900).

Municipal election held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November. Board of aldermen meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Common council meets on the second Wednesday after the first Saturday of each month. Probate court meets every Wednesday.

City hall is on High street, Pawtucket.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—The office possesses all the records of North Providence from the date of the incorporation of the town in 1765 to 1874, Pawtucket town meeting and vital records from 1828 to 1862, and all Pawtucket records from 1862 to date. Pawtucket (Mass.) land evidence and probate records from 1828 to 1862, according to the Massachusetts system, are at Taunton, the shire town of Bristol County.]

Town meeting records of North Providence, 1765–1874, 3 vols.; of Pawtucket, 1828–1886, 3 vols.

Town council records: North Providence town council and probate records, 1765–1855, 11 vols.; town council records, 1855–1874, 3 vols., with general index in 1 vol.; Pawtucket town council records, 1862–1886, 5 vols.; Pawtucket selectmen records, 1850–1861, 2 vols.

City council records: Pawtucket board of aldermen records, 1886–1901, 12 vols.; common council records, 1886–1901, 2 vols.; records of common council and board of aldermen, 1901 to date, 3 vols. General card index to all of these volumes, which answers also for files of original papers.

Probate records of North Providence, 1765–1855, in North Providence town council records. North Providence and Pawtucket probate records (North Providence, 1855–1874, Pawtucket, 1862 to date), 50 vols. General card index to probate records, which is also an index to files of original papers. Also separate volume of probate index. Probate docket, 2 vols. (partially replaced by card index). Card index of devisees, 1765 to date, arranged in strictly alphabetical order under names of devisees, giving name of testator, book and page where original will is recorded, date when will is admitted to probate, and number of case where original will is filed.

Deeds: North Providence land evidence, 1765–1874, 70 vols. Typewritten alphabetical index in 4 vols. (There are transcripts of the North Providence records for the portion of the town annexed to Providence in the

Providence deed office.) Transcript from Bristol County records of land evidence for Pawtucket, Mass., 1828–1862, 12 vols. Typewritten index, 1 vol. Pawtucket land evidence, 1862 to date, 103 vols. Typewritten index, 6 vols. Receiving book for deeds is kept.

Record of plats for land evidence for North Providence and Pawtucket on cards. Separate written index and separate card index. There are six volumes of the records of streets compiled from town council and town meeting records, and a card index of all streets showing current and obsolete names with record of all changes.

Oak Grove or North Bend Cemetery, burial lot deeds, 1852 to date, 5 vols.; general card index. Mineral Spring Cemetery burial lot deeds, 1842 to date, 3 vols.; index to each volume.

North Providence personal property mortgages 1765–1874, 6 vols. Pawtucket personal property mortgages, 1862 to date, 18 vols.; general index in 1 volume.

Vital records of North Providence are as follows: Births, marriages, and deaths, 1765–1851, 1 vol.; marriages, 1850–1871, 1 vol.; deaths, 1872–1873, 1 vol. The North Providence records as far as 1850 have been printed in volume 2 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island. The Pawtucket records are as follows: Births, marriages, and deaths, 1844–1854, 1 vol.; marriages and births, 1828–1852, 1 vol.; births, 1855 to date, 3 vols.; marriages, 1852 to date, 4 vols ; deaths, 1860 to date, 3 vols. There is a general typewritten index to marriages in 1 volume. Separate indexes to births and deaths are in preparation. The North Providence records from 1765 to 1850 have been printed in volume 2 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island. The records of Pawtucket (Mass.), from 1828 to 1843 have been printed in volume 10, and from 1843 to 1862 in volume 9 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island. Intentions of marriage run from 1889 to 1896 in 2 vols., and from 1896 to date in 8 vols.

Assessors' records: The tax books of North Providence, 1765–1874, and of Pawtucket, 1828 to date, are slightly incomplete in the earlier years. There are 4 volumes of North Providence assessors' books (A to Y) and several volumes of registry tax books. The tax book has been annually printed from 1868 to date.

School reports have been printed annually from 1869 to date. Pawtucket (Mass.) school reports were also printed prior to 1862.

Miscellaneous records:

Treasurer's book, North Providence, 1823–1858, 1 vol.
Town orders to treasurer, Pawtucket, 1828–1858, 1 vol.
Mineral Spring Turnpike Corporation book, 1832–1860, 1 vol.
Liens, North Providence, 1847–1874, 2 vols.
Militia lists, North Providence, 1854–1873, 3 vols.
Registry book, North Providence, 1855–1873, 1 vol.
Liens, Pawtucket, 1857 to date, 2 vols.
Census of North Providence, 1865, unbound.
Pawtucket library association treasurer's book, 1866–1876, 1 vol.
Record of attachments, Pawtucket, 1862 to date, 1 vol.
Record of attachments, North Providence, 1867 to 1874, 1 vol.
Corporation returns, North Providence, 1862–1874, 1 vol.

Miscellaneous records—Continued.

Corporation returns, Pawtucket, 1868 to date, 1 vol.

Registry book, 1869–1877, 1 vol.; 1877–1895, 1 vol. a year; 1896–1901, 5 vols. a year; 1902 to date, 6 vols. a year.

Census of Pawtucket, 1875, 2 vols.

Curbing account book, 1878–1888, 1 vol.

Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 8 vols.

Building permits, 1886–1901, 1 vol.

Dog licenses, 1889–1903, 9 vols.

Lists of jurors, 1893 to date, 1 vol.

Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.

Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.

Militia enrollment, 1898, in sheets.

Pending suits, index vol.

Records of licenses of dogs, taverns, pool and billiard rooms, express, junk, entertainment, etc., kept in separate stub volumes.

Card index to voters; different classes of voters on differently colored cards.

The records are all in fireproof rooms in the city hall. The city clerk's office is one of the model offices of the State, especially as regards indexing and accessibility of current records.

PORTSMOUTH.

Portsmouth, one of the four original towns, was settled in 1638.

Population: 628 (1708), 1,512 (1774), 1,351 (1782), 1,684 (1800), 1,833 (1850), 2,105 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Tuesday in November and for appropriations on the first Wednesday in May. Town council and probate court meet on the second Monday of each month.

Town clerk's office is in the southern part of the town.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records. The records of 1638–39 are in the volume of early Newport records in the statehouse and have been printed in Rhode Island Colonial Records, volume 1, pages 45–69. The town meeting records from 1639 to 1697 are in the first book of records, which also contains town council records, probate records, land evidence, vital records, earmarks, etc. This volume was printed by the State in 1901 and in its printed form is provided with a complete index. There is also a transcript, from which the records from 1639 to 1647 were printed in Rhode Island Colonial Records, volume 1, pages 70–85. Town meeting records from 1697 to date are in 4 volumes.

Providence deed office.) Transcript from Bristol County records of land evidence for Pawtucket, Mass., 1828–1862, 12 vols. Typewritten index, 1 vol. Pawtucket land evidence, 1862 to date, 103 vols. Typewritten index, 6 vols. Receiving book for deeds is kept.

Record of plats for land evidence for North Providence and Pawtucket on cards. Separate written index and separate card index. There are six volumes of the records of streets compiled from town council and town meeting records, and a card index of all streets showing current and obsolete names with record of all changes.

Oak Grove or North Bend Cemetery, burial lot deeds, 1852 to date, 5 vols.; general card index. Mineral Spring Cemetery burial lot deeds, 1842 to date, 3 vols.; index to each volume.

North Providence personal property mortgages 1765–1874, 6 vols. Pawtucket personal property mortgages, 1862 to date, 18 vols.; general index in 1 volume.

Vital records of North Providence are as follows: Births, marriages, and deaths, 1765–1851, 1 vol.; marriages, 1850–1871, 1 vol.; deaths, 1872–1873, 1 vol. The North Providence records as far as 1850 have been printed in volume 2 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island. The Pawtucket records are as follows: Births, marriages, and deaths. 1841 [illegible] marriages and births, 1828–1852, 1 vol. [illegible] from 1881 to date are in marriages, 1852 to date [illegible] 1850 are printed in Arnold's Vital [illegible] of Rhode Island, volume 4.

Assessors' records: The original tax books of only the last few years seem to be in the office. It is said that the books from about 1850 to about 1880 were destroyed at the time of the removal to the present town building two years ago. Tax books have been annually printed from 1870 to date, being included, however, since 1897 in a pamphlet of annual reports.

School reports have been printed in 1857 and from 1870 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Registry book, 1842–1876, 1877 to date, 3 volumes.

Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 volume.

Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 volume.

Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 volume.

Dog licenses, —— to date, 1 volume.

There is a chest of old documents, such as petitions, warrants, receipts, etc.

The records are kept in the town clerk's office at Portsmouth, which has a fireproof vault. They are in excellent condition, but need indexing.

PROVIDENCE.

Providence, one of the four original towns, was settled in 1636. It originally comprised the whole of Providence County. Glocester, Scituate, and Smithfield were taken from it in 1731, Cranston in 1754, Johnston in 1759, and North

Miscellaneous records—Continued.

Corporation returns, Pawtucket, 1868 to date, 1 vol.

Registry book, 1869–1877, 1 vol.; 1877–1895, 1 vol. a year; 1896–1901, 5 vols. a year; 1902 to date, 6 vols. a year.

Census of Pawtucket, 1875, 2 vols.

Curbing account book, 1878–1888, 1 vol.

Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 8 vols.

Building permits, 1886–1901, 1 vol.

Dog licenses, 1889–1903, 9 vols.

Lists of jurors, 1893 to date, 1 vol.

Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.

Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.

Militia enrollment, 1898, in sheets.

Pending suits, index vol.

Records of licenses of dogs, taverns, pool and billiard rooms, express, junk, entertainment, etc., kept in separate stub volumes.

Card index to voters; different classes of voters on differently colored cards.

[illegible] records are all in fireproof rooms in the city hall. The [illegible] the model offices of the State, espe-
Town meeting [illegible]
custody of the recorder of deeds [illegible]
of his office.) Town meeting records from 1676 [illegible] records.
volume called "town meetings, No. 3, 1677–1750," which contains also vital records, records of earmarks, etc., from 1677 to 1750, and which has been printed as volumes 8 and 9 of the "Early Records of Providence." This is followed by town meetings, No. 1, 1692–1715 (printed as volume 11 of the Early Records). Town meetings, No. 2, 1716–1725 (printed as volume 13 of the Early Records), and town meetings, No. 4–10, 1725–1832. There are also 7 volumes of town meeting minutes or "Blotters," 1800–1831.

Town council records from 1678 to 1686 are recorded in the first volume of probate records. (See the account of the records of the municipal court.) The regular series of town council records runs from 1692 to 1832, volumes 1–12. The first volume, 1692–1714, is printed as volume 10 of the Early Records and the second volume, 1715–1732, as volume 12 of the Early Records. There are also 21 volumes of town council minutes or "Blotters," 1799–1832. Town council account books, 1821–1849, and a package of town council papers, 1777–1800.

City council records, 1832–1900, volumes 1–21. Journal of city council and board of aldermen, 1832 to date, volumes 1–35. Board of aldermen, 1832–1902, volumes 1–23. Rules and regulations, board of aldermen, 1879 to date, 1 volume. Common council records, 1832 to date, volumes 1–32.

Miscellaneous records:

Board of health record, 1821–1832, 1832–1856, 2 vols.; 1885 to date (removal of nuisances), 5 vols.; 1885 to date (remedy of uncleanliness, etc.), 1 vol.; 1895 to date (drainage), 4 vols.; 1875 to date (orders to fill cesspools, etc.), 1 vol.; board of health journal, 1884–1894, 2 vols.

City Clerk's Office—Continued.

Miscellaneous records—Continued.

Bonds: Water, town of Johnston, fire, highways, Weybosset bridge, sewer, water and sewer, school, water refunding, park, Davis estate, city hall, public improvement, Johnston annexation, Providence and Springfield Railroad, 56 vols.

Census, town of Providence, 1825, 1 vol.; 1835, 1 vol.; enrollment of males over 20 years of age, 1889, 10 vols.

City hall commission, ledger A, 1874–1878, 1 vol.; ledger, 1875–1879, 1 vol.; journal A, 1875–1879, 1 vol.; records of furniture, 1877–1879, 1 vol.; records, 1874–1879, 2 vols.

Committee on printing, record of, 1871 to date, 2 vols.

Committee on streets, record of, 1885 to date, 3 vols.

Committee on milk, record of, 1898 to date, 1 vol,

Committee on constables, record of, 1898 to date, 1 vol.

Committee on auctioneers, record of, 1898 to date, 1 vol.

Committee on bridges, record of, 1898 to date, 1 vol.

Committee on shows, record of, 1898 to date, 1 vol.

Committee on police, record of, 1898 to date, 1 vol.

Committee on health department, record of, 1898 to date, 1 vol.

Committee on hackney carriages, record of, 1898 to date, 1 vol.

Committee on damages under dog law, record of, 1898 to date, 1 vol.

Dexter Asylum, record of meetings at, 1828–1857, 1 vol.; records, 1828 to date, 4 vols.

Dexter Asylum donation, town meeting, 1832 to date, 3 vols.

Elections, record of, 1887–1890, 10 vols.; 1891 to date, 91 vols.

Johnston records—

Town meeting records, 1796–1898, 2 vols. There are also several volumes of town meeting minute books, but the volume containing the town meeting records from 1759–1796 can not be found at the present writing.

Town council records, 1834–1898, 5 vols. From 1759–1834 the town council records are in the volumes of probate records in the office of the municipal court. There are also several volumes of town council minute books.

Town ordinances, 1872–1898, 1 vol.

Records of town elections, 1896–1898, 2 vols.

Layout of streets, 1880–1900, 1 vol.

Medical register, 1895–1896, 1 vol.

School journal, 1863–1889, 1 vol.

School ledgers, 1883–1891, 5 vols.

Package of school papers from establishment of schools till 1811.

Miscellaneous papers relating to the town of Johnston, chiefly of the early nineteenth century (in boxes on the fourth floor of the city hall).

Letter book of city clerk, 1829–1859, 1 vol.; 1871 to date, 8 vols.

City Clerk's Office—Continued.
Miscellaneous records—Continued.
Licenses—
Fees received by city clerk, 1859–1860, 2 vols.
Drivers' licenses, 1860–1868, 2 vol.
Wagon licenses, 1860–1868, 2 vols.
Dog licenses, 1864–1869, 1 vol.
Liquor licenses, 1868–1874, 2 vols.
Licenses for powder, junk, taverns, etc., 1871–1880, 2 vols.
Licenses for gunpowder, junk, oyster houses, pawnbrokers, taverns, victualing houses, swine, 1886–1900.
Junk licenses, 1891–1899, 1 vol.
Cash licenses, 1891 to date, 3 vols.
Licenses for fireworks, vehicles, undertakers' commissioners, 1900 to date. Each class of licenses kept in separate volume. Volumes numbered 1, 7, 22–28.
Militia—
List of enrolled militia, 1860–1865, 1 vol.; 1869–1871, 4 vols.; 1875, 1 vol.; 1880, 1 vol.
United States military enrollment, 1863, 1 vol.
Overseers of the poor, records of, 1769–1827, 2 vols.
Reform school cash book, ledger, payments, journal, 1876–1880, 4 vols.
Streets and street plats—
Original street plats, 9 vols. (These are being copied and reduced to a more uniform and convenient size. Of these new volumes of copied plats there are 29 vols.).
Original plats of streets, highways and lands in the town of Providence, 1 vol.
Plats of streets and highways in the town of Providence, 2 vols. (These are copies of the original plats of the volume listed above. An index of these copies has been printed in the fourth report of the record commissioners).
Miscellaneous street maps, A–E, 5 vols.
Street plats, Tenth Ward, 1 vol.
Plats and profiles on Smith's Hill, 1 vol.
Plats of the town of Providence, 1825, 1 vol.
Plat of streets, No. 7, 1 vol.
List of plats in town clerk's office, 1713–1801, 1 vol.
Index to street maps, 1761–1880, 1 vol. (Printed in 1880, city documents, 1880, No. 22.)
Index to streets, 1761 to date, 1 vol. (A printed index, 1761–1901, was issued in 1901.)
Street records, 1636–1831, 10 vols. (A record of everything pertaining to streets, highways, bridges, and public lands from 1636 to 1832, compiled and copied by Emily E. Potter; indexed.)

City Clerk's Office—Continued.
Miscellaneous records—Continued.
Streets and street plats—Continued.
Street records, papers, and documents, 1714–1832, 2 vols. (Loose papers and copies of originals, prepared in 1872.)
Records of streets, 1822 to date, 12 vols.
Record of streets in Ninth Ward, to 1868, 1 vol.
Street courses, 1771–1826, 1 vol.
Record of street grades, 1844–1851, 1 vol.
Grade plans, 1879–1885, 4 vols.
Taxes—
Estates sold for taxes, 1859 to date, 4 vols.
Estates sold for sewer taxes, 1881 to date, 1 vol.
Registry tax, 1885–1889, 14 vols.
Firewardens' records, 1805–1852, 1 vol.
Record of moneys received by town council for fines, 1806–1852, 1 vol.
Record of town meeting, September 25, 1831, for promotion of the peace of the town and the safety of the inhabitants, 1 vol.
Limited partnerships and corporations, 1837 to date, 5 vols.
City ordinances, 1845 to date, 10 vols.
City clerks' fees, 1848–1853, 1 vol.
Register of city debt, 1854 to date, 3 vols.
Inspection of steam boilers, 1857–1862, 4 vols.
Cash books, 1866 to date, 5 vols.
Returns and record of lumber surveyed, 1870–1879, 2 vols.
Records of commissioners of cove lands, 1871–1876, 1 vol.
Approved bills, 1875–1879, 1 vol.
Investigation of electric-light system, 1878, 1 vol.
Investigation of superintendent of lights, 1879, 1 vol.
Police investigation, 1879, 1 vol.
Registry voters, 1888, 1 vol.
List of jurors, 1893 to date, 2 vols.

For the series of Providence town papers and for other miscellaneous volumes, see the account of the papers in the custody of the city record commission.

MUNICIPAL COURT RECORDS.

(PROBATE RECORDS.)

[Note.—While Providence existed as a town, all probate powers were vested in the town council and the clerk of the council was ex-officio recorder of wills. The city charter, which went into effect in 1832, provided for a municipal court having cognizance of all probate matters.]

The earliest book of probate records of the town of Providence has undoubtedly been lost. "A small paper book containing the enrollments of wills" was listed in an account of the records in 1677, but disappeared before 1755. (Second report, Rec. Comm. p. 24.) There are a few wills previous to 1675 recorded in town meeting records and in the volumes in

which deeds were recorded. The first volume of probate and town council records runs from 1678 to 1715, printed as vols. 6 and 7 of the Early Records of Providence. Vol. 2 of probate records, labeled wills, etc., runs from 1716 to 1729, printed as vol. 16 of the Early Records. This is followed by the regular series, vols. 3–41, 1729–1899. There are also the following series, kept separately:

Inventories, 1819–1899, vols. 1–30.

Administration accounts, 1821–1899, vols. 1–30.

Commissioner's reports, 1821–1898, vols. 1–5.

Divisions of real estate, assignments of dower, etc., 1835–1899, 1 vol.

Guardians accounts, 1839–1899, vols. 1–14.

Bond books, 1872–1899, vols. 1–41.

Probate letters, 1874–1898, vols. 1–13.

Record of discharged claims against executors, etc., 1896–1899, 1 vol.

Decrees for sale of real estate, administration, 1898–99, 1 vol.

Decrees for sale of real estate, guardianship, 1898–99, 1 vol.

Johnston probate records, 1759–1898, vols. 1–22 (comprises wills, inventories, probate proceedings, town council records, letters, bonds, etc. Town council records from 1772 to 1852 constitute vols. 2, 3, and 5).

Probate proceedings, 1798 to date, vols. 1–82 (since 1899 all probate records—wills, inventories, accounts, bonds, letters, etc.—are entered in the series labelled probate proceedings).

Probate docket, 1646 to date, 31 vols.

Johnston probate docket, 1896–1898, 1 vol.

Index to probate proceedings, 1646–1899 (printed). This is an index to the probate dockets as far as 1899, which include reference to all probate proceedings in the municipal court, in the town council records in the city clerk's office, in the recorder of deeds' office, in the papers of the record commissioners, and in the Johnston probate records. There is a card index to all probate proceedings, 1900 to date.

RECORD COMMISSIONER.

The series of Providence town papers, within the last few years gathered and bound under the supervision of the record commissioners, are in the custody of the record commissioner, who is also clerk of the municipal court. They are described in detail in the fourth and fifth reports of the record commissioners. A brief account of them follows:

Providence town papers, 1639–1823, vols. 1–5, Nos. 01–01369. The documents numbered 01 to 0717, from 1639 to 1722, are printed as vols. 15 and 17 of the Early Records. There is a separate volume of index of names, and a subject index of the series is printed in the fifth report of the record commissioners.

Providence town papers, 1642–1799, vols. 1–39, Nos. 1–18069. (Vol. 33 includes the Bowen Papers, 1745–1772; vol. 34 includes the Bowen Papers, 1772–1807, and the Guild Papers, 1685–1722; vols. 35 and 36 include the Guild Papers, 1722–1828; vol. 39 A and B include the Fenner Papers,

1640–1766; vols. 39 C and D include the Fenner, Bates, and Olney Papers, (1641–1815.) There is a separate index of names, indexing all documents in vols. 1–39, dated before 1790. There is a separate name Index of the Fenner Papers, vols. 39A–39C. A subject index is printed in the fourth report of the record commissioners indexing all documents in vols. 1 to 39 that are dated before 1790. This series is continued by vols. 40–155, Nos. 001–0064170.

The following volumes have also been bound and preserved by the record commissioners:

List of voters, October 11, 1824, 1 vol.
Record of fire buckets, 1811–1828, 4 vols.
Paper money bank mortgages, 1715–1786, 8 vols. (indexed in fourth report of record commissioners, p. 175).
Rules and orders for the management of the workhouse.

RECORDER OF DEEDS.

[NOTE.—The office of recorder of deeds was established in 1866. Previous to this date the volumes of deeds were in the custody of the city clerk.]

During the earliest period of the town's existence deeds were recorded in three general record books, a description of which follows:

First book, town of Providence (also called the "Long Old Book," with parchment cover) contains deeds, 1641–1683; town meeting records, 1637–38; vital records, 1633–1658, etc. This volume has been printed as vol. 1 of the Early Records of Providence. A transcript of the volume was made in 1800, which has been made use of by the record commissioners, since it supplies some few defects in the volume in its present condition.

Second book of the town of Providence (also called the "Town Old Book," "Short Old Book," "Old Burnt Book," etc.) contains deeds, 1643–1662, town meeting records, 1642–1661, and a few records of births, indentures, etc. The volume is somewhat mutilated and a few pages are known to have been lost. A transcript of it was made in 1800. It has been printed as vol. 2 of the Early Records.

Third book, town of Providence (also called the "Book with the Brass Clasps," etc.), contains deeds, 1657–1705; town meeting records, 1661–1675; vital records, 1646–1721, earmarks, etc. It was transcribed in 1800, and has lately been bound up in 2 volumes, lettered A and B.

It has been printed as vols. 3, 4, and 5 of the Early Records.

In addition to these three volumes there is in the office a volume lettered "Indian deeds," and containing the original "Towne evidence" and the confirmation deeds of 1659–1662. Framed and under glass are the charter granted by the assembly to the town of Providence, March 14, 1648–1649, and the deed of Roger Williams and his wife, December 20, 1661.

The first volume used solely for deeds runs from 1678 to 1705, and is labeled deed book No. 1. It is printed as vol. 14 of the Early Records. This is followed by vols. 2–461, which brings the series of deed books to date. There are also the following series kept separately:

Mortgage deeds of real estate, 1852 to date, vols. 1–238.

Indexes to deeds are in separate volumes of grantors and grantees. There are separate volumes of indexes of all deeds of Cranston territory entered in Providence records, and also of all deeds in Providence records referring to North Providence territory, 1854–1874.

Mortgage deeds of personal property, 1834 to date, vols. 1–88 (provided with separate volumes of indexes and kept in the basement office).

Mechanics' liens, 1847 to date, 5 vols.

Attachments, 1858 to date, are kept on file, and are provided with separate volumes of indexes.

Record of pending suits, 1893 to date, 1 vol.

North burial ground deeds, 1846 to date, 10 vols., preceded by a register of the burial lots, 1834–1845 (kept in the basement office).

Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, vol. 1–25. Indexed in each volume (kept in the basement office).

Johnston records: Deed books, which include real-estate mortgages, run from 1759 to 1898, vol. 1–66, and are provided with separate indexes of grantors and grantees. Partitions of estates, rights of dower and agreements, 1843–1874, are in 1 volume, and attachments, executions, and mechanics' liens, 1861–1898, are in 3 volumes. In the basement office are personal property mortgages, 1835–1898, vol. 1–8, with index, and assignment of wages, 1885–1898, 2 vols.

Plats are in volumes, numbered from 1 to 28 (also one early volume lettered A), which are kept in the basement office. These plats are copied on large cards, numbered from 1 to 892, which are kept in the deed office. There is a card index, arranged both by names and by streets, to these cards, and also to uncopied plats in the deed books. There is also an index, in 2 volumes, of all the plats, based on a sectional map of the city.

CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

Record of Marriages and Births, 1633–1853, vol. 1–5 (vol. 5 includes copies of church records, family records, early town records, etc).

Record of Births, 1850–1903, vol. 6–17; also extra vol. A 1 for recording births out of the chronological order.

Record of Marriages, 1850–1903, vol. 6–19; also extra vol. A 2 for recording extra marriages.

Record of Interments of the Dead, 1840–1850, vol. 6–8; Record of Deaths, 1850–1903, vol. 9–21; also extra vol. A 3 for recording extra deaths.

Intentions of Marriages, 1881–1895, 14 vol.

Intentions and Returns of Marriages, 1896–1903, 14 vol.

Index to Intentions, 1882–1890, 3 vol.

The original returns of Births have been preserved from 1880 to date, of Deaths from 1842 to date, and of Marriages from 1847 to date. There

is a card catalogue index of Births, of Marriages and of Deaths from 1891 to date.

All vital records as far as 1850 have been printed in Arnold's *Vital Record of R. I.*, vol. 2. All the records from the beginning to 1890 have been printed in the *Alphabetical Index of the Births, Marriages and Deaths recorded in Providence*, in 10 volumes, vol. 1 to 4 being edited by E. M. Snow and v. 5–10 by C. V. Chapin.

There are the following volumes of Johnston Vital Records in the office:—

Records of Marriages and Births, A, otherwise known as Births and Marriages No. 1, 1759–1843.
Index to above.
Record of Births, 1852–1898, 3 vol.
Record of Marriages, 1850–1898, 1 vol.
Record of Deaths, 1850–1898, 1 vol.

There are the following volumes of miscellaneous records in the office:—

Census of Providence, 1865, 7 vol.
" " " 1874, 1 vol. with Index.
" " " 1875, 10 vol.
U. S. Census, 1880, 7 vol. and 12 vol. of Index.
Militia Enrollment, 1898, 1 vol.

TAX ASSESSORS' OFFICE.

Town Tax Lists, 1705–1789. These volumes are those which were separately bound under the direction of the Record Commissioners and deposited in this office. There is a list of them printed in the 5th Report of the Record Commissioners, pp. 18–21.

Town Tax and Rate Lists, 1787–1831, about 110 original lists in paper covers.

City Tax Lists, 1832–1886, 55 vol.; 1887–1903, 34 vol.

Johnston Tax Books, 1850, 1860, 1863–97, 37 vol.

Poll Tax, 1889–1903, 15 vol.

Johnston Poll Tax, 1889–1897, 9 vol.

Assessors Returns, 1843–1845, 15 vol.

Personal Property Valuation, 1856–1898, 43 vol.

Transfers [of Grantors], 1854–1857, 1 vol.

Transfers of Grantors, 1863–1903, vol. 5–30.

Transfers of Grantees, 1863–1878, vol. 5–11.

Abstracts of Wills, 1870–date, 3 vol.

Real Estate Ledgers (Index of Accounts now arranged by card system)
ser. [A], vol. 1–7, with Index.
ser. [B] vol. 1–6, " "
ser. [C] vol. 1–9, " "
ser. [D] vol. 1–9, " "
ser. E vol. 1–11, " "

Record of Plat Alterations, 1876–1902, vol. 3–9.
Calculations, 1884–1893, vol. 7–8.
Surveyors Record Book, 1871–1904, vol. 3–13.
Ledger Accounts of Bank Stock, 1884–1898, 3 vol. (now carried on by card system).
Plats, 124 folio boards.
Index of Plats, vol. 1–96 (arranged by the numbers of the plats. The Index is now carried on by the card catalogue system, the cards being arranged by the numbers of the plats.)

BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND REGISTRATION.

Registry Book, 1877–1896, 30 vol.; 1896–1904, 346 vol. arranged by wards.
Johnston Registry Book, 1877–1894, 2 vol.
List of Real, Personal and Registry Voters, 1894–1904, 387 vol.
List of Poll Tax, 1885–1888, 22 vol.
Registry Tax (transcribed into district books) 1889–1895, 123 vol.
Records of the Board of Canvassers and Registration, 1895–date, 11 vol.
Records of Municipal Elections, 1896–date, 8 vol.
Appointments of Supervisors of Elections, 1890–1900, 1 vol.
Registry Tax, 1844, 1 vol. (printed forms).
" " 1861, 1 vol. " "
Lists of Voters, 1855, 1 vol. " "
" " " 1845–1847, 1850, 1851, 1858, 1859, 8 vol.

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

[NOTE.—The office of city engineer was created in 1869. The reports of this department have been printed from 1872 to date. The information as to archives on file in this office has been kindly furnished by Otis F. Clapp, city engineer.]

There are on file in this office about 15,000 maps, plats, plans, drawings, diagrams, etc., all properly classified and indexed.

These include—

A. An atlas of the city of Providence and surrounding territory in 160 loose sheets, showing the location of all water pipes and water fixtures laid in highways; also a duplicate atlas showing water pipes proposed but not yet in place.
Annual progress maps, showing water pipes laid yearly since 1878.
Plans of reservoirs, pumping stations, pumping-engine details, special castings, etc.
B. Plans of all sewers in the city of Providence on a scale of 40 feet per inch.
Topographical maps of the city, scale 200, showing contours for each 10 feet in elevation.
Plans of the improved sewerage system, the Ernest street-pumping station, with detail drawings of the engines, etc., precipitation works and the buildings and tanks connected therewith, tide gates, gate houses, etc.
Sewer district maps showing all finished and contemplated sewers.
An atlas indicating all sewers in the city of Providence.

C. Grade plans and profiles of highways in 17 atlases and loose sheets; in all about 3,300.
Highway construction plans.
Plans of the telephone and electric-light conduits.
Plans accompanying highway specifications.
Street railroad location plans.
Topographical plats of Providence; scale, 80 feet per inch.
Five volumes of grade descriptions and grade changes.

D. Property plats from the record office and elsewhere.
Copies of all maps of the layout of highways within the city limits.
An atlas of the North Burial Ground in 38 loose sheets, showing the exterior boundaries of said ground and the dimensions and area of each of the burial lots therein.
An atlas of the city of Providence, from actual surveys—in about 320 loose sheets, each 34 inches square; scale, $\frac{1}{500}$—showing the location of all public highways by offsets to the buildings thereon, with a key giving the polar coordinates of all angle points and street corners. (In preparation.)
A location index of plats in the office of the recorder of deeds.

E. Plans and detail drawings of all bridges owned by the city of Providence and plans relating to the harbor and dredging of Providence River, tide readings since 1885, etc.

F. Plats of the 500 parcels of real estate owned by the city of Providence, including public parks and squares, school estates, fire and police stations, ward rooms, waterworks property, sewerage property, Dexter donation and miscellaneous property.

Besides the foregoing there are also on file in this office—

Meteorological data from 1881 to 1904, showing daily rainfall, temperature, direction and velocity of the wind, humidity, barometer readings, etc.

Daily water consumption since 1877, engine records, etc.

Field books containing diagrams of all private drains connected with the sewer system, with card index.

About 800 packages of deed abstracts, maps, genealogies, wills, railroad layouts from the court of common pleas, etc., of uniform size, filed for ready reference and classified according to the location of the property involved.

Abstracts of all highway deeds to city of Providence, and deeds of right of way for water pipes and sewers.

An index of all conveyances to and from the city and town of Providence, recorded in Providence, Cranston, Warwick, Lincoln, North Providence, and East Providence, giving date, location of property conveyed, name of grantor and grantee, and book and page of record.

A compilation containing all legislative actions and council resolutions relative to the North Burial Ground from 1700 to 1897, with copies of all existing maps, bound in five type-written volumes.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

In March, 1866, an act was passed providing for the election of a board of three water commissioners, who were elected by the city in September, 1869. In February, 1872, an act was passed providing for the election of a board of three highway commissioners, to supersede the office of the surveyor of highways. In March, 1880, a board of public works, to consist of three persons, was created to supersede to the powers of the water and highway commissioners. In March, 1888, an act was passed abolishing the board of public works and providing for the election of a commissioner of public works.

The reports of the water commissioners were printed quarterly from 1870 to 1876 and annually from 1877 to 1880, also the reports of the water commissioners on sewers from 1873 to 1876. The reports of the highway commissioners were printed both quarterly and annually from 1872 to 1879. The board of public works and the commissioner of public works have printed a quarterly report from 1883 to date.

The records in the department consist of 6 volumes of the records of the water commissioners, board of public works, and commissioner of public works from 1869 to date. There is a card index of water service pipes arranged by streets, one of water accounts arranged by stop numbers, and one of sewer connections.

RICHMOND.

Richmond was taken from Charlestown and incorporated August 18, 1747.

Population: 508 (1748), 1,257 (1774), 1,094 (1782), 1,368 (1800), 1,784 (1850), 1,506 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Tuesday in June, and for appropriations on the Saturday after the first Monday in May. Town council and probate court meet on the first Monday of each month.

Town clerk's office is at Wyoming, in the town clerk's house.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records from 1747 to 1790 are included in the same volumes with land evidence, from 1790 to 1812 were destroyed by fire, and from 1812 to date are in 3 volumes. The volume from 1812 to 1834 includes also vital records, 1812–1852, and earmarks, 1813–1871.

Town council records from 1747 to 1783 are in 2 volumes, and include probate matter. The records from 1783 to 1812 were destroyed by fire, and from 1812 to date are in 14 volumes.

Probate records from 1747 to 1783 and from 1812 to date are contained in the same volumes with town council records, each being begun at opposite ends of the same book. The only indexes are to be found in the respective volumes. There are 2 volumes of probate bonds, 1873 to date, and a probate docket.

Deeds: The early volumes of land evidence include also the town meeting records. Vol. 1, 1747–1758, includes also town meetings, 1747–1762; earmarks, 1747–1789, and vital records, 1747–1805. Vol. 2, 1759–1771, includes also town meetings, 1762–1776. Vol. 3, 1771–1786, includes town meetings, 1776–1790. Vol. 4 has only land evidence, 1786–1798. The records from 1798 to 1812 were destroyed by fire. Vol. 5, 1812–1814, includes also the rerecording of all deeds that could be found bearing date between 1798 and 1812. Vols. 6 to 15 cover the period from 1814 to date. There are two volumes of indexes and a receiving book. Records of personal property, 1839 to date, are in 3 volumes.

Vital records from 1747 to 1805 are in the first volume of land evidence. From 1812 to 1852 they are in the volume of town meetings, 1812–1834. From 1853 to date, births, marriages, and deaths have each a separate volume. The vital records from 1747 to 1850 are printed in vol. 5 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records: Tax lists from 1852 to date are in 5 volumes. Prior to 1852 they are on loose sheets, fastened together. There is one volume of registry tax, 1872–1879, and of highway tax, 1875–1877. The tax books have been printed from 1854 to date, with the exception of the years 1863 and 1864.

School records: The town clerk has a little volume containing a few entries as to the boundaries of school districts. The school reports have been printed probably from 1852 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Records of board of canvassers, 1852 to date, 1 vol.
By-laws of town, 1856 to date, 1 vol.
Record of highway districts, 1857–1895, 4 vols.
Dog licenses, 1864 to date, 3 vols.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.

The records are kept in the house of the town clerk, near the village of Wyoming, most of them being in a large safe. Several volumes of records were stolen and destroyed by fire in June, 1812, an account of which can be found in Rhode Island Historical Society Publications, vol. 1, p. 161.

SCITUATE.

Scituate was taken from Providence and incorporated February 20, 1731. The town was divided and Foster made a separate town in 1781.

Population: 1,232 (1748), 3,601 (1774), 1,635 (1782), 2,523 (1800), 4,582 (1850), 3,361 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the third Wednesday in May and for appropriations on the first Monday in June. Town council and probate court meet on second Saturday of each month.

Town clerk's office is at South Scituate.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records are in 3 volumes, 1731 to date. Vol. 2, 1787–1824, is made up of the original minutes, which have been recently bound together, but contains no records from 1772 to 1778.

Town council records are in 8 volumes, 1731 to date. The first four volumes, from 1731 to 1819, contain probate records and are so lettered.

Probate records continue the first four volumes of town council records and are lettered vols. 5–13, 1820 to date. There is also a volume of probate bonds, 1879–1903, and a volume of probate docket, 1896 to date.

Deeds are in 39 volumes, 1731 to date. Vol. 1 is lettered record of deeds, births, marriages, and deaths, and contains deeds, 1731–1733, vital records, 1731–1785, earmarks, 1734–1788, and estrays, 1735–1760. Mortgages of personal property are kept in a separate series from 1837 to date, vols. 1–4. Receiving book for deeds is kept. Plats have been bound in 11 large folio volumes, and there are also many loose plats rolled.

Vital records: The first volume, containing the records from 1731 to 1785, is in the series of deeds, as listed above. The second volume runs from 1799 to 1850, with a few earlier entries, containing also the records of the Scituate Fire Engine Company, 1845–1862. Since the year 1850 there is one volume for births, one for marriages, and one for deaths. The records as far as the year 1850 are printed in vol. 3 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records: Tax lists from 1771 to date are in separate volumes of varying size and thickness. The rate lists prior to 1771 are undoubtedly in the bundle of early loose manuscripts. The tax books have been printed from 1859 to date, with the possible exception of 1860–1862, 1864–1866.

School records: In the town clerk's office are bounds of school districts, 1846 to date, and records of school committee, 1858 to date. The school reports have been printed from 1847 to date, although those for 1847–1855 do not seem to be in any set.

Treasurers' records from 1863 to date are in separate volumes in the town clerk's office.

Miscellaneous records:

Justices' docket, 1831, 1 vol.
Justices' court, trial justice, 1873–1886, 5 vols.
Records Scituate asylum of the poor, 1844–1886, 12 vols.
Lists of bounty payments, 1862, 1 vol.
Census for 1865, 1875, 1880, 3 vols.
Writs of attachment, mechanics' liens, etc., 1868 to date, 2 vols.
Militia rolls, 1874–1882, 1 vol.
Bounds of highway districts, 1 vol.
Dog licenses, 1880 to date (on stubs).
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1890 to date, 1 vol.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Several volumes of voters' lists of the last fifty years.
One bundle of warrants, receipts, petitions, town orders, and miscellaneous papers, chiefly of the eighteenth century.
One bundle of early layouts of highways.

The records are kept in the town house at South Scituate. They are in fair condition and the important records, such as land evidence and probate matter, are well indexed.

SMITHFIELD.

Smithfield was taken from Providence and incorporated February 20, 1731. The town was divided March 8, 1871, into the towns of Smithfield, North Smithfield, and Lincoln, and a small portion was annexed to Woonsocket. Central Falls was taken from Lincoln in 1895 and incorporated as a city. The town records were kept in Lincoln, the most populous town, until 1895. Since that date they have been kept in the office at Central Falls, the most populous of any of the towns within the original Smithfield.

Population: 450 (1748), 2,888 (1774), 2,217 (1782), 3,120 (1800), 11,500 (1850), 12,315 (1865), 2,605 (1871), 2,107 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Monday in June and for appropriations on the second Tuesday in June. Town council and probate court meet on the last Saturday of each month.

Town clerk's office is at Greenville.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—The records from 1731 to 1871 are in the office at Central Falls, *q. v.*]

Town meeting records from 1871 to date are in 1 volume.
Town council journal from 1871 to date is in 3 volumes.

Probate record runs from 1871 to date, vols. 1–4. There are 2 volumes of probate bonds, 1873 to date, and 1 volume of probate docket, 1896 to date.

Deeds: There are 7 volumes of records of deeds, 1850–1871, lettered A to G, which are transcripts from the records at Central Falls. The records of deeds run from 1871 to date, vols. 1–10. There are 2 volumes of index, 1850 to date, and a receiving book. Mortgages of real estate run from 1871 to date, vols. 1–5, and records of personal property, vols. 1–3. There are 2 volumes of index to mortgages—one of personal property and the other of real estate. Plats are in a folio volume, or else rolled.

Vital records: There are 2 volumes each of births, of marriages, and of deaths, 1871 to date. Intentions of marriage are in 2 volumes, 1881–1896, and intentions and returns of marriage in 2 volumes, 1896 to date.

Assessors' records: Tax assessments are in 5 volumes, 1871 to date. Poll tax assessments are in 1 volume, 1903 to date. The tax book has been printed from 1871 to date. It had previously been printed by the old town of Smithfield, from 1850 to 1870.

School records in the town clerk's office are boundaries of school districts, 1873–1890, 1 vol.; records of school district No. 14, 1848–1872, 1 vol. The school reports have been printed from 1871 to date. They had previously been printed by the old town of Smithfield from 1847 to 1870.

Miscellaneous records:

Registry of voters, 1871–1876, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.
Dog licenses, 1871 to date, 2 vols.
Enrolled militia, 1871–1885, and list of jurors, 1871 to date, 1 vol.
Registry tax, 1878–1888; record of naturalization papers and record of appointment of railroad police, 1897–1901; 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Mechanics' liens, 1897 to date, 1 vol.

The records are kept in two safes in the town clerk's office at Greenville, and are in good condition.

SOUTH KINGSTOWN.

The town of Kingstown, incorporated 1674, was divided February 26, 1723, into North Kingstown and South Kingstown, the act providing that North Kingstown should be the older town. The South Kingstown records, therefore, begin in 1723.

Population: 1,523 (1730), 2,835 (1774), 2,675 (1782), 3,438 (1800), 3,807 (1850) 4,972 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Tuesday in June and for appropriations on the third Tuesday in

May. Town council and probate court meet on the second Monday of each month.

Town hall is at Wakefield.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records run from 1723 to date, vols. 1–4. Vol. 1, 1723–1776, includes also vital records, 1723–1794, with a few of earlier date, and earmarks and brands, 1723–1788.

Town council records No. 1 is a transcript made in 1723 of the council and probate records of Kingstown, and also contains a list of freemen, 1723, vital records, 1678–1722, and earmarks, 1696–1722. From 1723 to 1799 town council records are in vols. 2 to 6, probate records being kept in the opposite end of each volume. From 1799 to date council records are kept separately in vols. 7–11.

Probate records previous to 1799 are kept in the same volumes with town council records, *q. v.* From 1799 to date they are kept separately in vols. 1–16. There is a separate volume of index of wills and a probate docket. Bonds run from 1873 to date, in vols. 1–3. Appraisers warrants run from 1896 to date in 1 volume.

Deeds: Land evidence, vols. 1–3, are transcripts made in 1723 of Kingstown records from 1693 to 1723. The regular series of land evidence runs from 1723 to date, vols. 3–36. Real estate mortgages are kept separately, 1886 to date, vols. 1–5. Personal property mortgages are kept separately, 1839 to date, vols. 1–5. There is a receiving book and a separate volume of index to deeds. Plats are kept in 3 large volumes called "Plat book record of highways." Miscellaneous plats are rolled. The lands of South Kingstown were included in what was early called the Pettaquamscut Purchase. Many of the records of the Purchasers are printed in the Rhode Island Historical Society Collections, vol. 3, pp. 275–292, and their records from 1783 to 1793 are in manuscript in the library of the Historical Society.

Vital records from 1678 to 1722, included in the transcript of town council records No. 1, are really records of Kingstown and should be mentioned in connection with North Kingstown records. From 1723 to 1794 the vital records were kept in the first volume of town meeting records. From 1794 to 1850 they are in a separate volume, which also includes record of earmarks, 1791–1866, and of estrays, 1824 to date. From 1850 to date there is 1 volume each of births, of marriages, and of deaths. Intentions of marriage, 1881–1895, are in 2 volumes, and intentions and returns of marriage, 1895 to date, are in 3 volumes. There are several marriages from 1716 to 1731 recorded in the paper volumes of justices' court records as yet unarranged. The records as far as 1850 have been printed in vol. 5 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records from 1757 to date are in little volumes chiefly bound in paper or pasteboard covers. Tax books have been printed from 1852 to date.

School records in the town clerk's office are records of school committee, 1852–1871, 1 vol.; school daily registers, 1862–1887, about 100 volumes;

records of school district boundaries, 1884, 1 vol. The school reports have been printed in 1852, 1853, 1863, 1873 to date, and possibly in intervening years.

Miscellaneous records:

Paper money bank mortgages, 1715–1756, 5 vols.
Justices' court records, 1782–1886, several volumes, chiefly unbound, and often including records of marriages.
Record of highway districts, 1797–1831, 2 vols.
Record of highway tax lists, 1832–1864, 2 vols.
Highway account book, 1865–1895, 5 vols.
Military roll, 1848, 1 vol., paper.
Militia rolls, 1861–1874, 1 vol.
Registry book, 1857 to date, 3 vols.
Memorial of soldiers' monument, 1861–1865, 1 vol.
Census of 1865, of 1875, 2 vols. in sheets.
Record of partnerships, 1881 to date, 1 vol.
Record of attachments, index to file.
Jurors' book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment of 1898, in sheets.

There are several chests of eighteenth and nineteenth century accounts, warrants, highway layouts, justices' records, paper money mortgages, etc., etc., which would be of considerable value if properly arranged by subject. The office possesses a set of the Narragansett Times.

The records are in a fireproof vault in the town hall at Wakefield and are well bound and indexed.

TIVERTON.

Tiverton, one of the five towns received from Massachusetts in 1746 by royal decree, was incorporated, together with small parts of Dartmouth and Freetown, as a Rhode Island town January 27, 1747. It was settled in 1680, and had been incorporated as a town by the Massachusetts Colony in 1694. The northern portion of the town was incorporated by Rhode Island as the town of Fall River October 6, 1856, but was transferred to Massachusetts March 1, 1862, in exchange for parts of Pawtucket and Seekonk.

Population: 1,040 (1748), 1,956 (1774), 1,959 (1782), 2,717 (1800), 4,699 (1850) 1,927 (1860), 2,977 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Wednesday in June and for appropriations on the last Wednesday in April. Town council and probate court meet on the first Saturday of each month.

Town clerk's office is at Tiverton.

RECORDS.

[NOTE.—The town meeting and vital records before 1747 are still in the possession of the town, but the land evidence and probate records before that date, according to the Massachusetts system, are preserved in the county seat at Taunton, where are also the records of the town of Fall River (R. I.), 1856–1862. See Report of the Massachusetts Record Commissioner for 1885, p. 373.]

Town meeting records: The volume lettered "Town meetings, births, marriages, deaths, 1697–1732" includes town meeting records from 1693 to 1733. The volume lettered "Town meeting records, 1704–1754" contains the records from 1735 to 1754 and a few meetings from 1704 to 1708. This is followed by "Town meetings, 1754–1798," and "Town meetings, 1801–1838." The last volume is lettered "Town meeting records, No. 3," and runs from 1838 to 1903. The records from 1798 to 1801 appear to be missing. There is a volume of lists of freemen 1747–1811.

Town council records from 1747 to 1764 are in the volume lettered "Probate records, No. 2, 1746–1769." From 1771 to 1775 the records are in the volume lettered "Probate records, No. 4, 1771–1793;" from 1776 to 1789, in volume lettered "Town council and probate records, 1776–1789;" from 1790 to 1792, in volume lettered "Probate records, No. 4, 1771–1793;" from 1792 to 1804, in "Council book, No. 5;" from 1804 to 1852, in "Town council meetings, No. 2, 1804–1852." This is followed by "Council records, No. 3," 1852–1889, and "Council record, No. 4," 1889–1903.

Probate records from 1747 to 1768 are in volume lettered "Probate records, No. 2, 1746–1769;" from 1769 to 1792, in "Probate records, No. 4, 1771–1793;" from 1792 to 1804, in "Council book, No. 5;" from 1804 to 1814, in "Probate records, No. 6." This is followed by vol. 7 to vol. 19, 1814 to date. (There are 2 volumes lettered vol. 14.) There are also 2 volumes of record of bonds, 1874 to date; 1 volume of scratch book of probate court, 1818–1826; and 1 volume of probate docket.

Deeds: There is a volume lettered "Proprietors' record, Pocasset," which contains a transcript of the original records of the proprietors of Pocasset and of Puncatest from 1680 to 1848, made in 1868. The land evidence runs from 1746 to date, vols. 1–48. There is a separate volume of index of grantees for vols. 1–36, which index is being continued by the card system. A volume lettered "Land records, 1752–1774," contains paper money indentures of 1752 and deeds from 1748 to 1774. There is also 1 volume of securities on personal estate, 1834–1876; 1 volume of records of personal property, 1874–1899; and 3 volumes of mortgages land evidence, 1903 to date. Plats are rolled. A map of the Pocasset purchase is in private hands.

Vital records before 1850 are in 4 volumes. "Births and deaths, 1673–1818;" "Marriages and intentions, 1707–1746," containing records from 1707 to 1814; "Births, 1767–1812," containing births and deaths from 1745 to 1829; and "Births and marriages, 1809–1854." There are also several records from 1678 to 1735 in "Town meetings, births, marriages, deaths, 1697–1732." From 1850 to date there are 2 volumes each of births, of marriages, and of deaths. There are also intentions of marriages, 1881–1896, 1 vol., and intentions and returns of marriage, 1896 to

date, 1 vol. The records as far as 1850 are printed in vol. 4 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors records: The original tax books for the following years seem to be in the office: 1844, 1850, 1852, 1855, 1856, 1870, 1872–1875, 1879 to date. The tax books have been printed since 1867.

School records in the town clerk's office are records of school districts, 1842–1895; treasurer's school records, 1845–1883, in 2 volumes; school attendance and census, 1885–1889, in 2 volumes. The school reports have been printed in 1859 and from 1873 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Treasurer's record book, 1787–1846, 1 vol.; cash book, 1845–1893, 2 vols.; account book, 1883–1893, 1 vol.

Records of the overseers of the poor, 1822–1886, 1 vol.

Electoral register, 1868–1876, 1 vol.

Registry book, 1877 to date, 2 vols.

Dog licenses, 1864–1871, 1895–1899, 3 vols. (These, as well as liquor licenses, are now kept by the Tiverton police commission).

Bounds of highway districts, 1868, 1 vol.

Vaccination books, 1873–1894, 1 vol.

Record of estrays, 1873 to date, 1 vol.

Mechanics' liens, 1877 to date, 1 vol.

Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.

Record of elections, district Nos. 1 and 2, 1895 to date, 2 vols.

Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.

Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.

Militia enrollment of 1898, in sheets.

The records are well kept in a fireproof vault in the town clerk's office at Tiverton. Several of the earlier volumes have been wisely preserved by the Emery process, although the modern lettering on the backs is not always indicative of the contents.

WARREN.

Warren, whose territory formerly belonged to Massachusetts, came under Rhode Island jurisdiction upon the settlement of the boundary question, and on January 27, 1747, was incorporated as a town. On June 16, 1770, the town was divided, the new portion being named Barrington. A portion of the town of Bristol was annexed to Warren May 30, 1873.

Population: 680 (1748), 979 (1774), 905 (1782), 1,473 (1800), 3,103 (1850), 5,108 (1900).

Town meeting for election held on the second Wednesday in March and for appropriations on the succeeding Saturday. Town council and probate court meet on the first Saturday in each month.

Town hall is in the town of Warren.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records are in four volumes, 1747 to date. There are also two small volumes of the original blotters, 1810–1829, 1829–1842.

Town council records from 1747 to 1837 are in three volumes, the first two of which, 1747–1808, include probate matter. The fourth volume is unlettered, runs from 1835 to 1856, and is apparently the original blotter which had not been transcribed. The next volume, 1856–1873, is lettered vol. 2 and is followed by vols. 3–5, 1873 to date.

Probate records before 1808 are in town council records. From 1808 to date they are in a series numbered vols. 2–13, although vol. 12 contains solely probate record accounts. There are four thin volumes running from 1819–1839, 1858–1861, which are apparently blotters. Wills and inventories, 1810–1819, vol. 3, and 1819–1851, vol. 4, are followed by wills, 1854 to date, vols. 8–10, and inventories, 1832 to date, vols. 3–5. Letters testamentary and of administration are dated 1810–1839, No. 1; 1840–1856; 1872–1899, No. 3. Letters of guardianship are dated 1814–1841, No. 2, and 1841–1899. These are followed by a volume of letters testamentary, administration, and guardianship, 1899 to date. Of the volumes of bonds, there are administrative bonds, 1810–1836, 1 vol.; executor's bond, etc., 1815–1823, No. 1; bonds and letters to pay debts and legacies, 1823–1839, No. 2; letters and bonds to return an inventory, 1823–1839, No. 3; bond book, 1872–1893, 1 vol.; and record of bonds, 1893 to date, Nos. 2 and 3. Other probate volumes are probate docket, 1895 to date; probate record accounts, 1841 to date, vols. 7–12 (there is, however, no vol. 8); and court of probate, commissioner's claims, 1843 to date, vol. 8. The probate records are provided with separate indexes, but the lettering on the backs of the volumes, as can be seen above, is very confusing.

Deeds are in a series numbered vols. 1–38, 1747 to date, although there are two vols. 20, and two vols. 21. These are indexed in separate volumes. There is a transcribed copy of the records of the proprietors of Sowams, 1653–1797, the original of which is at Barrington. Personal-property mortgages are in a separate series of 3 volumes, 1834 to date. There is a reception book for conveyances. Plats are mounted on cards, those of estates numbering 1 to 30, and those of streets 1 to 6. There is a folio plat book containing a plat of the entire town, made in 1856 by James S. Mason.

Vital records from 1747 to 1850 are in 3 volumes. The births are arranged alphabetically by the Christian name. There is also a volume of record of marriages, 1822–1853. From 1850 to date births are in 2 volumes, marriages in 2, and deaths in 2. Intentions and returns of marriages are in 5 volumes, 1881 to date. The records as far as 1850 are printed in vol. 6 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records are in 5 volumes, 1851 to date. The tax books have been annually printed from 1868 to date, with the possible exception of 1869.

School reports have been annually printed from 1857 to date, with possibly a few exceptions in the earlier years.

Miscellaneous records:

Registry book, 1877 to date, 3 vols.
Assignment of future earnings, 1884 to date, 3 vols.
Dog licenses, 1885–1892, 1 vol., 1892 to date, on stubs.
Attachments and executions, 1885 to date, 1 vol.
Police department report, 1891–1898, 1 vol.
Licenses of shows, 1892 to date, 1 vol. of stubs.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Corporation returns, 1895 to date.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Clergymen's register, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Records of bonds issued, 1897 and 1902, 1 vol.
Finance records, 1901 to date, 1 vol.

The records are well kept in a large fireproof room in the town hall at Warren.

WARWICK.

Warwick, one of the original four towns, was settled in 1643, although it apparently did not assume governmental organization until 1647. (See Field's Rhode Island, vol. 1, p. 72.) The town was divided in 1741, and Coventry separated from it.

Population: 480 (1708), 2,438 (1774), 2,122 (1782), 2,532 (1800), 7,740 (1850), 21,316 (1900).

Town meeting for elections held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, and for appropriations on the first Tuesday in September. Town council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, and probate court on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Town hall is at Apponaug.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records. The first record book includes town meeting records, town council records, deeds, earmarks, etc., from 1647 to 1668, as well as a few Indian deeds of earlier date. There are several pages of shorthand in the first part of the book, probably notes on sermons written by Edmund Calverly while in England. There is also a transcript of this volume made in 1860. This is followed by a volume of town meetings and land evidence, 1668–1681, and by a volume called General Record No. 1 and containing town meetings, 1681–1682, 1696; land evidence, 1681–1682; some scattered town council records, earmarks, and a few miscellaneous proprietors' records, 1681–1720. These three volumes have been provided with a comprehensive alphabetical index of proper names, subjects, grantors and grantees, etc., in 6 volumes. The town

meeting records, kept in separate volumes, run from 1713 to date, vols. 2–9.

Town council records are scattered throughout the first record book, 1648–1668, and general record, No. 1, 1681–1699, and are included in the volumes of wills from 1703 to 1771. The town council records, kept separately, run from 1771 to date, vols. 1–10.

Probate records: Wills, etc., run from 1703 to date in 21 volumes. There are 12 volumes of probate proceedings, 1804 to date; 5 volumes of probate bonds, 1873 to date; 1 volume of probate letters, 1839–1856; 1 volume of letters of administration with will annexed, 1856 to date; 2 volumes each of letters of administration, letters of guardianship and letters testamentary, 1856 to date; and probate docket, 1895 to date.

Deeds: Land evidence from 1642 to 1668 are scattered throughout the first record book; from 1668 to 1681 are contained in a mixed volume of town meetings and land evidence; and from 1681 to 1682 in the volume called General Record No. 1. These three volumes have been carefully indexed. From 1682 to date the deeds run from vol. 1 to 67, the first volume, 1682–1706, containing many early deeds recorded after 1682. The deeds are indexed in separate volumes and there is a receiving book. There are also the mortgages of personal property, 1834 to date, in 7 volumes, and mortgages of real estate, 1854 to date, vols. 1–31 (although there are two vols. 4 and two vols. 8, making 33 volumes). Plats are kept in large folio books, vols. 1–4, and are also rolled and kept in drawers.

Vital records from 1664 to 1850 are in 4 volumes. From 1850 to date births and marriages are in 3 volumes each, and deaths in 2 volumes. The intentions of marriage, 1890–1895, and the intentions and returns of marriage, 1896 to date, are in 6 volumes. The vital records as far as the year 1850 are printed in Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island, Vol. 1.

Assessors' records: The tax lists from 1865 to date are in 6 volumes. The earlier lists, as far back as the beginning of the eighteenth century, are tied up in bundles and kept in the storage room. There are also 2 volumes of the levy book for town taxes, 1878 to date; 2 volumes of the levy book for school districts, 1893 to date; and 1 volume of the fire district tax levy book, 1900 to date. The tax books have been printed from 1856 to date, with the possible exception of the years 1857, 1858, and 1859.

School records in the town clerk's office are records of school district No. 4, 1846–1886, 1 vol., and school district tax levy book, 1893 to date, 2 vols. The school reports have been printed since 1853.

Miscellaneous records:

- Record of fence divisions, 1810 to date, 1 vol.
- Record of liens, 1848 to date, 1 vol.
- Record of surveyors of highways, 1853–1895, 2 vols.
- Treasurer's account book, 1860–1861, 2 vols., in paper covers, and 1862–1880, 2 vols.
- Highway account books, 1884 to date.
- Miscellaneous records, 1855 to date, 2 vols. (Bills of sale of personal property.)

Miscellaneous records—Continued.

Record of attachments, 1858 to date, Index vol.
Dog licenses, 1867 to date, 3 vols.
Militia list, 1869–1882, 1 vol.
Soldiers' bounties, war of rebellion, 1 vol.
Militia enrollmont, 1898, 1 vol. of sheets.
Registry book, 1877 to date, 5 vols.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 4 vols.
Record of elections, districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 1892 to date, 4 vols.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Legal notices, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Liquor licenses, tavern licenses, junk gatherers' licenses, and peddlers' licenses are kept in stub volumes.

In the storage room are two large boxes and one trunk full of miscellaneous papers of the 18th and 19th centuries, such as receipts, vouchers, warrants, early tax lists, records of highway districts, bonds and records of the justices of the peace, 1756–1860, both in volumes and in bundles of papers.

The Warner Papers in the John Carter Brown Library (1,921 manuscripts in 5 volumes, with index of names) contain many papers relating to Warwick, 1642–1849, such as deeds, town orders, layouts of land, plats, etc.

The records are kept in a large fireproof room in the town hall at Apponaug, and, with the exception of the very early volumes, are in good condition and well labeled. The first book of records should be carefully copied and printed.

WEST GREENWICH.

West Greenwich was taken from East Greenwich and incorporated as a town April 6, 1741.

Population: 766 (1748), 1,764 (1774), 1,698 (1782), 1,757 (1800), 1,350 (1850), 606 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers and for appropriations held on the first Monday in June. Town council and probate court meet on the last Saturday of each month.

Town clerk's office is in his house at West Greenwich Centre.

RECORDS.

Town Meeting Records from 1742 to date are in 4 volumes.

Town Council Records from 1742 to date are in 9 volumes. Some Council Records for 1741–42 and also a few records of earmarks, written on loose leaves, are laid in at the beginning of the first volume. The records from 1788 to 1790 are apparently missing and there are two volumes lettered 8.

Probate Records. Wills, 1742–date, are in 11 volumes, there being a contemporary index in each volume. The records of the Probate Court are kept in vol. 1–8 of Town Council Records from 1741 to 1827, in vol. 6–9 of Record of Wills from 1828 to 1846, and in separate volumes, lettered vol. 10 and 11, from 1846 to date. There is a Probate Docket, 1896–date, and 2 volumes of Probate Bonds, 1873–date.

Deeds. Land Evidence runs from 1740 to 1786, vol. 1–8. The first volume, 1740–1741, has but 49 loose pages and contains deeds in the Great Purchase, later incorporated as West Greenwich. There is a separate thin volume of Index to vol. 2–7. From 1786 to date Land Evidence runs in a new series, vol. 1–17, there being a contemporary index in each volume. There is a separate Index to Deeds, 1899–date, in 1 volume. There are 2 volumes of Chattel Mortgages, 1834–date, 3 volumes of Real Estate Mortgages, 1838–date, and 1 volume of Registry of Mortgages and Quitclaims, 1742–1772. There are several plats of highways and estates among the loose miscellaneous papers, including two old plats of 1720 and 1727 which cover almost the entire town.

Vital Records from 1741 to 1852 are in 3 volumes. From 1852 to date there is 1 volume each of Births, of Marriages and of Deaths. Intentions of Marriage and Intentions and Returns of Marriage run from 1881 to date in 4 volumes. The records from 1741 to 1850 are printed in Arnold's *Vital Records of R. I.*, vol. 1.

Assessors Records from 1899 to 1902 are in 4 paper books, and from 1903 to date are in a large folio volume. Most of the earlier tax lists are among the loose miscellaneous papers. The Tax Books have been printed from 1864 to date.

School Reports have been printed from 1862 to date.

Miscellaneous Records are as follows:—

Register of Earmarks and Estrays, 1742–1894, 2 vol.
Militia Lists, 1862–85, 1898, 1 vol.
Dog Licenses, 1864–date, 1 vol.
Registry Book, 1889–date, 1 vol.
Naturalization Book, 1892–date, 1 vol.
Jury Book, 1893–date, 1 vol.
Medical Register, 1895–date, 1 vol. (contains as yet no entries).
Register of Clergymen, 1897–date, 1 vol.

There are 3 chests of miscellaneous papers, such as petitions, warrants, receipts, town orders, tax lists, etc., chiefly of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The records are in fair condition, although several of the early volumes, such as vol. 2 of the Vital Records, are loose in the binding. Vol. 1 of Town Meeting Records is so discolored as to be partially unintelligible. No office or fireproof receptacles are provided by the town for its clerk, and hence the records are kept in the houses of the various town-clerks.

WESTERLY.

Westerly was incorporated May 14, 1669. Its name was changed to Haversham in June, 1686, but was restored in 1689. It originally included the towns of Charlestown, which was separated from it in 1738, of Hopkinton, which was separated from it in 1757, and of Richmond, which was separated from Charlestown in 1747.

Population: 570 (1708), 1,926 (1730), 1,809 (1748), 2,291 (1755), 1,812 (1774), 1,744 (1782), 2,329 (1800), 2,763 (1850), 7,541 (1900).

Town meeting for election of officers held on the first Tuesday in June, and for appropriations on the second Tuesday in June. Town council meet on the first Monday of each month and probate court on the first and third Mondays of each month.

Town hall is on Union street in Westerly.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records from 1669 to 1706 are in a volume lettered "Town Records, Land Evidence, etc., No. 1, 1661–1707." This volume contains also land evidence, vital records, probate matter, and earmarks from 1669 to 1707. Town meeting records from 1707 to 1745 are in a volume lettered vol. 1 and containing also vital records, land evidence and earmarks. This is followed by vol. 3, 1745–1778, containing also vital records and earmarks; vol. 4, 1779–1819, containing also vital records and earmarks; unnumbered volume 1819–1855; unnumbered volume 1855–1903; vol. 2, 1904 to date.

Town council records before 1699 are in the book called town records, No. 1. From 1699 to 1798 they are in a series labeled town council and probate, vol. 1–5. From 1798 to date they are kept separately, vol. 6–11. There is a volume of town and council special proceedings, 1859–1888, which relates chiefly to highways.

Probate records before 1798 are kept in the same volumes with town council records. From 1798 to date they are kept separately in a series numbered vol. 1–12. There are two volumes of probate bonds, 1872 to date. There is a separate volume of index only to vol. 10–12.

Deeds: Land evidence from 1662 to 1707 is in the book called "Town Records, Land Evidences, &c., No. 1." There are a few deeds in the first volume of council and probate records, 1699–1719. The land evidence is kept separately from 1707 to date in a series numbered vol. 2–35. There are two separate volumes of grantors and grantees' index. There is a volume called the "Lottery Book" and containing deeds chiefly from Joseph Pendleton, 1751–1768, in Lottery Village. Mortgages of real estate run from 1870 to date in 7 vols. Mortgages of personal

property run from 1834 to date in 4 vols. There is an index volume of attachments, 1882 to date. Plats are chiefly in 2 folio volumes.

Vital records before 1706 are in the book called "Town Records, Land Evidence, &c., No. 1." From 1707 to 1819 they are included in the volumes of town meeting records. There is a volume called "Record of Marriages and Births, No. 3, 1824–1850." From 1850 to date there are 2 volumes of births, 2 of marriages, and 1 of deaths. Intentions of marriage and intentions and returns of marriage run from 1881 to date. The records previous to 1850 have been printed in volume 5 of Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island.

Assessors' records: The tax books run from 1873 to date in 31 volumes, and there are some of the earlier volumes in the storage room. There is a volume of assessors' valuation, 1877–1887, and a card index to taxpayers. The tax books have been printed from 1853 to date, with the exception of the years 1854, 1857, 1858, 1860, and 1864, which do not appear to be in any set.

School reports have been printed from at least 1883 to date, although for 12 years previous they had been printed in the newspapers.

Miscellaneous records:

Records of the Pawcatuck Union Meeting House, 1828–1872, 1 vol.
Mechanics' liens, 1853–1876, 1 vol.
Militia enrollments, 1867–1882, 2 vols.
Statements of manufacturing corporations, 1872 to date, 1 vol.
Town ordinances, 1873 to date, 1 vol.
Record of dog licenses, 1873 to date, 1 vol.
Book of executions, 1876 to 1883, 1 vol.
Registry books, 1877 to date, 3 vols.
Report of auditors, 1884 to date, vol. 2.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 2 vols.
Criminal record, 1885–1903, 4 vols.
Civil record, No. 2, 1889–1899, 1 vol.
Civil record index, 2 vols.
Witness book, 1889–1899, 1 vol.
Commissions of district court justice to justices of peace, 1889 to date, 1 vol.
Town notes, 1892 to date, 1 vol.
Trespass and ejectment book, No. 2, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Jury book, 1893 to date, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 2 vols.
Naturalization book, 1900 to date, 1 vol.

A large volume of early documents pertaining to Westerly is in the possession of the Westerly Public Library.

The records are kept in a vault in the town hall. Nearly all of the volumes previous to 1890 have been preserved by the Emery process. Few towns have done so well in this respect as Westerly. The records need more thorough indexing, however.

WOONSOCKET.

Woonsocket was taken from Cumberland and incorporated as a town January 31, 1867. When the town of Smithfield was divided, March 8, 1871, a portion was annexed to Woonsocket. Woonsocket was incorporated as a city June 13, 1888.

Population: 11,527 (1870), 16,199 (1885), 28,204 (1900).

Municipal election held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November. Board of aldermen meets on the second Monday in each month and common council meets on the Wednesday after the first Monday in each month. Probate court meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

City building is on Main street.

RECORDS.

Town meeting records, 1867–1888, are in 1 volume, followed by the records of the board of aldermen and city council, vols. 1–4, 1888 to date.

Town council records, 1867–1888, are in 5 volumes, followed by records of the board of aldermen and city council, vols. 1–4, 1888 to date.

Probate records are in 11 volumes, 1867 to date, including wills. There are also 4 volumes of probate record of bonds, 1867 to date, and a probate docket. The probate records are indexed in separate volumes.

Deeds are in 67 volumes, 1847 to date. The first volume contains copies from Smithfield and Cumberland records, 1847–1867. These are provided with separate volumes of indexes. Mortgages of personal property are kept separately in 10 volumes, 1867 to date. Receiving book for conveyances is kept. Plats are in 7 large folio volumes, 1867 to date, the first volume, however, including copies of earlier Cumberland plats from 1849 to 1867. There is a series of 61 assessors' plats mounted on folio cards and indexed in 24 small volumes.

Vital records are in 10 volumes, 1867 to date—4 of births, 3 of marriages, and 3 of deaths. Intentions of marriage and intentions and returns of marriage are in 6 volumes, 1881 to date.

Assessors' records: Town taxes, called city taxes after 1888, are in 9 volumes, 1867 to date. The city clerk's office also possesses registry tax, No. 1, 1867–1881; poll tax, Nos. 1 and 2, 1893 to date; real estate ledgers, 1891 to date, 4 vols.; and the assessors' plats mentioned above. The assessor's department in the city hall possesses all the additional assessors' records. The tax books have been printed from 1867 to date.

School records: The city clerk's office possesses boundaries of school districts, 1868–1882. The school reports have been printed from 1867 to date.

Miscellaneous records:

Record of attachments, 1867 to date, 1 vol.

Record of corporation certificates, 1867 to date, 1 vol.

Record of mechanics' liens, 1867 to date, 1 vol.

Registry of dogs, 1867 to date, 4 vols.

Index of highway matters in town and city records, 1867 to date, 1 vol.

Miscellaneous records—Continued.

Highway records, 1868–1869, 1 vol. (Highway districts.)
Registry book, 1877 to date, 11 vols.
Assignment of wages, 1884 to date, 4 vols.
City ordinances, 1888 to date, 1 vol.
Record of venders' licenses, 1895, 1 vol.
Registry of town bonds, 1874, 1885, 1887, 3 vols.
Registry of waterworks bonds, 1891, 1895, 1899, 1901, 4 vols.
Registry of Woonsocket and Pascoag Railroad Company bonds, 1891, 1 vol.
Registry of funding bonds, 1894, 1897, 2 vols.
Registry of sewerage bonds, 1893–1901, 5 vols.
Militia rolls, 1868–1882, 1 vol.
Medical register, 1895 to date, 1 vol.
Register of clergymen, 1896 to date, 1 vol.
Militia enrollment, 1898, 1 vol.
Census of 1875, 1880, for Woonsocket, 2 vols.
Census of males over 20 years of age, 1889, 5 vols., unbound.

The records are well indexed, well bound, and well kept in the city building on Main street. This building contains also the offices of the assessors, tax collectors, waterworks, sewer commissioners, city engineer, highway commissioner, license commissioners, and sealer of weights and measures, all of which possess the clerical records of their respective departments.

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Harvard College, Cambridge, MA 02138: (617) 495-2413

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